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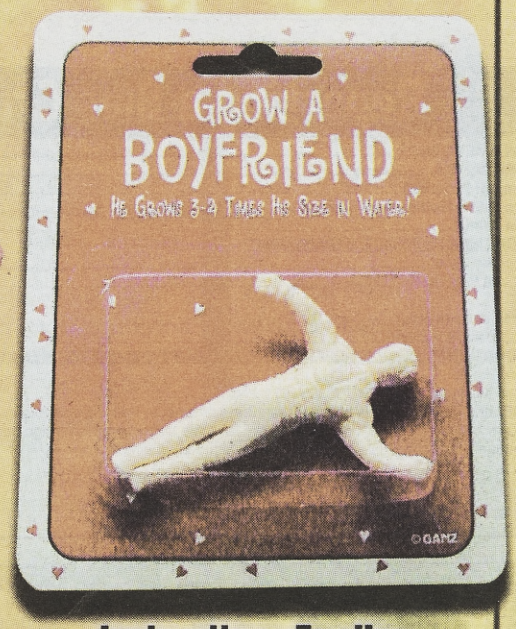

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448

SACRAMENTO'S PREMIER GAY & LESBIAN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1978

VOLUME 26 ISSUE #448

FEBRUARY 1, 2003

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SACRAMENTO'S PREMIER
GAY & LESBIAN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1978

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AFFILIATIONS

National Gay & Lesbian Journalist Association
Society of Professional Journalists
Midtown Business Association
Alternative Press Syndicate

Forum

LETTER | E-MAIL | CALL

MGW readers are interested in what you have to say!
For verification, letters to the Editor must include a signature, printed name, address and phone number.
Names can be withheld if requested.
MGW reserves the right to edit for brevity, content and slander.
See staff box at left for mailing and contact information.

War Fuels Fundamentalists

E-MAIL

Dear Editor,

A war against **Saddam Hussein** will in reality be a war on the Iraqi people. [And] it's possible that after the fall of Saddam, the Shi'ite majority will form alliances with Iran and impose a repressive regime on the Sunni and Christian minority.

We must, if not for the sake of the children of Iraq but for the planet, stop this war from happening.

Those who are leading us to war would not have the power to do so if they didn't have the support of the Christian fundamentalist Right–our real adversaries. These are the same fundamentalists who would–if given the opportunity–put us to death.

> ***"It's time, as a community, we unite and come out."***

The effect on queers and women will be as bloody and horrific as they are now in countries with similar fundamentalist theocracies. This war will be a billion dollar war that will devastate Iraq, weaken our economy, and tarnish our name in the world community.

Money–our tax dollars–for AIDS prevention and research will be diverted into weapons that will be used to cut off people's heads. Money for schools and programs that teach tolerance for GLBT youth will be squandered in a war where the only people who benefit will be the few rich guys at the top.

It's time, as a community, we unite and come out. We want a democratic and secular Iraq without Saddam Hussein (or any dictator) and one that will guarantee the rights of GLBT's and all minorities. However, waging a war against the Iraqi people will not accomplish that…it will postpone any liberation for the GLBT people of Iraq.

Kevin Weaver
Out Against the War Coalition
San Francisco

Reporting a Bias Crime

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Crime in Progress	911
Bias Crime Hotline Anonymous	454-BIAS (2428)
Bias Crime	264-5471
SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Capt. Jim Hyde	566-6460
Lt. Cara Westin	264-5990
CHP	
Lt. Montey Hensley	581-2300
Capt. Dennis Williams	324-3692
SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT, ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
Linda Birner	441-6397
Midge Marino	927-5651

A REMINDER If you have an issue with the Sacramento Police Department, there is a group of SDP officers and civilians that volunteer to help facilitate better communication between the GLBT community and the SPD. Please call them with your concerns.

Sgt. Cara Westin	264-5990	Linda Birner	441-6397
Capt. Jim Hyde	566-6460	Midge Marino	927-5651
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Task Force Tsk'd

E-MAIL

Dear Editor,

I find The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's statement opposing the war objectionable (*MGW* #447, pg. 4, "Task Force Joins Anti-war Coalition"). Not because I disagree with it, but because they shouldn't be the organization making it.

As a group fighting to ensure the rights of the GLBT community, they have enough to do without becoming a spokesperson for the anti-war movement. Our national organizations must use their resources, which they relentlessly ask us for, on their mission: Improving the life of GLBT individuals.

It may be a sign of strength in our community that we are looking at outside issues, rather than focusing all our attentions on fighting for our own rights. But I believe the fight for equality for the GLBT community is far from over and that we need groups like NGLTF helping us and leading us, as we continue this fight.

If we want to get involved in the nation's foreign policy debate as a GLBT community, then let those who want to organize a group dealing with those issues do so. We clearly have many in our community who are already deeply involved in the debate through their work and political affiliations.

The GLBT community is not monolithic. We as a community are as diverse as the nation as a whole. Many in the GLBT community contribute their hard earned dollars believing that is that is the mission they are going to support.

I hope that NGLTF in the future will stick to their mission and help us move forward to gain and retain the rights we deserve and demand.

Peter D. Rosenstein
Washington, DC

Senior Center Scholar Seeks Subjects

E-MAIL

Dear Editor,

This letter is written to you with the hope that you will be kind enough to let me impose on you one more time to help me reach participants for my thesis research.

The research is a "Needs-Based Assessment on the 60+ years and older Gay Men and Lesbians living in Sacramento County." I have been given approval by the Human Subjects Committee in the Dept. of Social Work at CSUS to begin my research.

I am also working in conjunction with the Sacramento LAMBDA Center to help bring a GLBT Senior Center and Housing opportunity to Sacramento, and the research I am doing will help with the LAMBDA project.

The whole concept of bringing a GLBT senior housing and center to Sacramento has been a dream of mine for a very long time. In March, I will be attending a conference in Chicago on Senior Centers and housing and there will be many GLBT workshops focusing on the very idea of what I (and many others) would like to see developed for our Sacramento community.

Anyone interested in this study (or the future center) can reach me through email (Bsteph2001@aol.com) or phone (916-987-7585).

Sincerely,
Brenda Stephens
Sacramento

Our Correcting...

MGW Newspaper would like to acknowledge errors promptly. Corrections will appear on page two in each issue. Mistakes can be reported by contacting: E-mail: info@mgwnews.com Fax: 916.441.6422 Phone: 916.441.6397 Mail: 1725 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

An Overview of the Legislative Process

Editor's note: The following was sent to us from the Lambda Letters Project (LLP). We think it provides a simple and comprehensive overview of the legislative process and important pending legislation.

- With the legislative process is now in full swing with many bills being introduced, there are some important deadlines coming into play.
- Whenever a legislator wants to introduce a bill, he or she sends the concept of the bill to the Legislative Counsel's office. That office creates the actual wording of the bill, although the final wording may result from some negotiations between the Legislative Counsel and the legislator who wants to introduce the bill.
- The deadline for the submission of bill concepts was January 24, and then there is a second deadline: All bills must actually be introduced in the legislature by no later than February 21. Any further bills must wait until the following year.
- Of course, the rules may be different for bills introduced in a special session. These bills will have an "X" in their name, such as "ABX 1."
- A special session can occur right along side a regular legislative session. The legislators merely say, "Now we are in a special session" or "Now we are in the regular session."
- Special sessions of the legislature are originally convened by the Governor and usually they deal with just one issue. For example, last December the Governor declared a special session of the legislature to deal with the state's budget crisis which is still going on along side the regular session of the legislature. ▼

Info: www.lambdaletters.org

Hot Bills in 2003

GLBT

• AB 17 (**Christine Kehoe**, D-San Diego)
Purpose: Wold prohibit a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a vendor or contractor who does not offer benefits to domestic partner employees, as defined, that are equal to benefits offered to employees with spouses, except as otherwise specified.
Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing Date Set Yet.
LLP Position: Support.

• AB 18 (**Mark Leno**, D-San Francisco)
Purpose: Would provide that nothing in state Fair Employment and Housing Act shall be construed to prohibit a city, city and county, county, or other political subdivision of the state from providing or maintaining greater protections against discrimination than those provided by the act. This might allow cities and counties to specifically ban discrimination against transgender people.
Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

• AB 75 (**Gloria Negrete McLeod**, D-Montclair)
Purpose: Would authorize agencies contracting with California's Public Employee Retirement System to provide the survivors of a deceased, retired local firefighter an allowance equal to 40% of a specified portion of the deceased member's retirement allowance plus 75% of the remaining portion of the deceased member's allowance.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee.
LLP Position: Support if domestic partners added to the list of eligible survivors. No hearing date set yet.

• AB 76 (**Ellen Corbett**, D- San Leandro)
Purpose: Would make it unlawful for an employer to fail to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to prevent harassment of an employee by any person, once the employer knows or should have known of this conduct.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

HIV/AIDS

• AB 4 (**Wilma Chan**, D-Oakland)
Purpose: To increase personal income tax rates, beyond the present maximum of 9.3 percent, for that portion of the taxable income of an individual that exceeds one hundred and thirty thousand dollars ($130,000) and for that portion of taxable income of married taxpayers filing jointly that exceeds two hundred sixty thousand dollars ($260,000). This will reduce the pressure to cut important health programs.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

• SB 71 (**Sheila Kuehl**, D-Los Angeles)
Purpose: Would, among other things, authorize school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health education, as defined, in kindergarten and grades 1-12, inclusive, and would require school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7-12, inclusive, receive HIV/AIDS prevention education.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AIDS Activist Appointed

By Derek Rudnak
MGW Staff

Former AIDS Action executive director **Daniel Zingale** was appointed last month to become **Gov. Gray Davis'** deputy chief secretary.

Zingale will be moving from his position as Director of the Department of Managed Health Care and will be replacing **Susan Kennedy**.

An article in the January 15th *Sacramento Bee* ("Davis Appoints Deputy Chief") identified Zingale as an "advocate for mental health patients, and for gays and lesbians."

Zingale had previously worked for Davis as deputy controller and chief of staff. ▼

Kuehl Considers Universal Health Care Legislation

Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles) has announced a proposal to enact single-payer, universal health care legislation.

Kuehl's office is currently looking for people with health-related stories who have been impacted by the health care crisis to consider participating in press conferences to be held in Los Angeles and Sacramento this month when the Senator introduces the legislation. If necessary, travel expenses will be paid for.

All candidates must be able to articulate their story in two minutes, so statements need to be concise, and Senator Kuehl's staff can assist in polishing and fine tuning statements.

Selected participants might match some of these criteria or have similar experiences:

- A young working family without health insurance.
- A senior citizen who cannot pay for prescription drugs.
- An employer who cannot afford to pay for health insurance for his/her employees after insurance rates went up, or whose health plan was canceled because an employee or an employee's dependent had a catastrophic illness.
- An employer of a small business who provides insurance coverage to employees but is paying a huge sum to do so.
- A person who has a disability who cannot get insurance if he/she works full time, but could get Medi-Cal if he/she didn't work.
- A person who lives alone and is at least age 60–but under age 65–and has no insurance and is not eligible for any public health insurance benefits.

For more information, contact Senator Kuehl's Sacramento office at the number provided below. ▼

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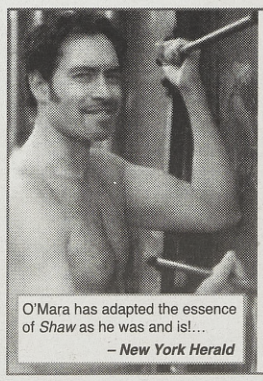
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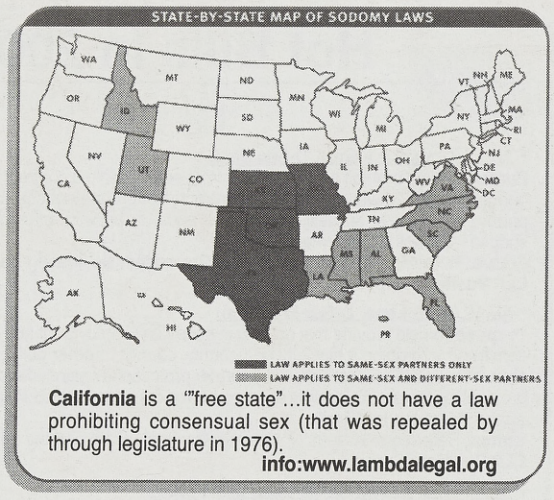
Tackling Texas' "Homosexual Conduct'


STATE-BY-STATE MAP OF SODOMY LAWS
LAW APPLIES TO SAME-SEX PARTNERS ONLY
LAW APPLIES TO SAME-SEX AND DIFFERENT-SEX PARTNERS
California is a '"free state"...it does not have a law prohibiting consensual sex (that was repealed by through legislature in 1976).
info:www.lambdalegal.org

Lambda Legal Listens...

With the U.S. Supreme Court set to hear arguments in Lambda Legal's historic case challenging Texas' "Homosexual Conduct" law this spring, Lambda Legal announced plans for town hall meetings and other community presentations in states that still have sodomy laws which typically are used to justify discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

Lambda Legal represents **John Lawrence** and **Tyron Garner**, who were arrested in Lawrence's Houston home and jailed overnight after officers responding to a false report found the men engaged in private, consensual sex. Once convicted, they were forced to pay fines, are now considered sex offenders in several states and are disqualified from working in dozens of professions.

In early December, the Supreme Court announced that it would hear arguments on whether the Texas law violates the federal Constitution's guarantee that laws must protect and apply to people equally, as well as whether it violates the right to privacy. In 1986, the Supreme Court ruled that Georgia's law banning consensual sodomy did not violate privacy rights.

In bringing the Texas case, Lambda Legal asked the justices to reconsider that ruling, which has been used against lesbians and gay men for almost two decades.

The series of community meetings kicked off on January 14 with a town hall in Birmingham, Alabama. Other dates, locations and cosponsoring organizations will be announced in the weeks ahead.

"Since the day the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it will hear our case, there's been a tremendous amount of interest and energy from GLBT people and straight allies nationwide who want to seize this historic moment with us," said **Hector Vargas**, director of Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office. "We're looking forward to working within communities that are affected by sodomy laws to increase understanding of this case, the many ways sodomy laws hurt gay people, and the need to get rid of these laws once and for all."

Lambda Legal said that sodomy laws are used to justify discrimination against lesbians and gay men people in everyday life; they're invoked in denying employment to gay people, in refusing custody or visitation for gay parents, and even in intimidating gay people out of exercising their free speech rights.

www.lambdalegal.org

...and Cato Creates 'Curiae'

The Cato Institute recently filed an *Amicus Curiae* ("friend of the court") brief in consideration of the case.

Scholars believe that Texas's "Homosexual Conduct Law" violates the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Drafted by **William Eskridge**, John A. Garver Professor of Law at the Yale Law School, argues that the Texas statute violates the three main provisions of section 1 of the amendment: the Privileges or Immunities Clause, the Due Process Clause, and the Equal Protection Clause.

"By singling out only homosexual sodomy," said **Roger Pilon**, dent for legal affairs, "the Texas law is in clear violation of the Equal Protection Clause. But our brief goes further in asking the Court to overturn *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the 1986 decision that upheld, under the Due Process Clause, a Georgia statute that criminalized homosexual conduct. That decision is flatly inconsistent with the Court's due process decision a decade later in *Romer v. Evans*."

As an alternative, Cato's brief also asks the Court to revisit the long-ignored Privileges or Immunities Clause, which was meant by the framers of the 14th Amendment to be the principal safeguard for liberty against state actions. "The time has come," said Pilon, "to revive the first principles of the 14th Amendment."▼

Info: www.cato.org

Bush Appointee Calls AIDS "Gay Plague"

By Derek Rudnak
MGW Staff

A Pennsylvania marketing consultant selected by the **Bush administration** to serve on the Presidential Advisory Commission on HIV and AIDS has withdrawn his nomination.

Jerry Thacker withdrew after a *Washington Post* article discovered that he had characterized AIDS as "the gay plague." The article also said that in his speeches and on his Web site, Thacker has called homosexuality a "deathstyle"–instead of a lifestyle–and that he suggested "Christ can rescue the homosexual."

Senator Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut) welcomed Thacker's decision to withdraw.

"His appointment would have had a divisive effect that would have threatened the critical work of this commission," he said. "His stated view that AIDS is a 'gay plague' is both offensive and wrong."

In addition to the site uncovered by *Washington Post,* the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) said that it had uncovered additional instances of Thacker's anti-gay comments disappearing from the web after sanitized sites were compared to previously cached versions.

"Despite the rapidly changing nature of this story, GLAAD urges journalists not to miss the big picture," said **Cathy Renna**, GLAAD's news media director.

"The media's recent missed opportunity to include the ways GLBT people are affected by issues like **Trent Lott**'s prejudicial comments–as well as broader issues like federal funding of anti-gay religious organizations and the battle over reproductive rights–remind us that the media have a responsbility to connect the dots around those stories."

Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) was troubled to learn of Thacker's ideologies, but not necessarily surprised.

"It is completely beyond all reasoning that this man would be the choice of the President to serve on the commission," said Nadler.

"But then again, when you are talking about an administration that has an Attorney General seeking to undermine the Constitution, a Defense Secretary who wants to squander money to defend the US against a phantom missile threat, and an EPA Administrator who has continually undermined Environmental Law, it is pretty clear that 'reasoning' isn't this administration's strong suit." ▼

HRC Not Picking Pickering

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) strongly restated its opposition to the nomination of **Charles Pickering** to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Pickering's career has been punctuated by racial divisiveness, and he also has publicly shared anti-gay sentiments, said HRC officials.

"Past behavior is usually the greatest indicator of future behavior and Pickering's past has included highly disturbing racial overtones that make him an unusually unacceptable nominee," said HRC Political Director **Winnie Stachelberg**.

"His opinion of gay people also seems to mirror other unpleasant and disturbing prejudices that have defined his career and been the hallmark of his time on the bench," said Stachelberg. "We adamantly urge Bush to reconsider this poor choice for a crucial judicial circuit."

In a speech before the 1984 Mississippi Southern Baptist Convention, Pickering lumped homosexuality with other social problems, according to *The Clarion Ledger* (Jackson, Mississippi).

"We as Southern Baptists should lead the way in strengthening traditional moral values," he reportedly said, adding that society has been degraded by such things as pornography, homosexuality and divorce. ▼

Info: www.hrc.org

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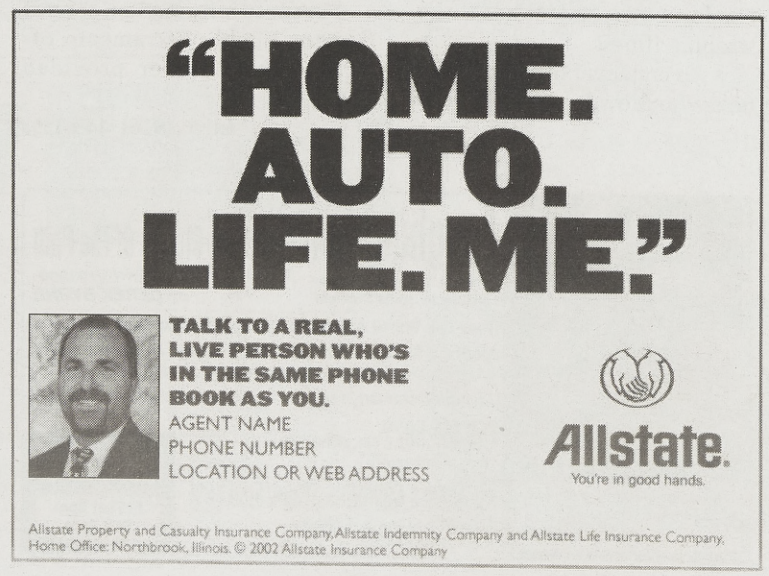
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Wires

CALIFORNIA. THE U.S.. THE WORLD ... CALIFORNIA. THE U.S.. THE WORLD ... CALIFORNIA. THE U.S..

HRC Sees Koppel TV as OK

Veteran journalist **Ted Koppel** will be honored by the Human Rights Campaign for his fair and balanced news coverage. The event will be held February 22 at the HRC's Los Angeles Gala Dinner.

Last year, Koppel hosted a landmark series, "A Matter of Choice," that focused on the lives of GLBT people and their families. The HRC said that the series presented a myriad of issues and concerns surrounding "what it is to be gay in America" in a thoughtful and honest way...something that Koppel said that the media does not often do.

Vermont Governor and 2004 Presidential candidate **Howard Dean** will be on hand to give the keynote speech. ▼

Info: www.hrc.com

Caffeine for Cancer Charitie$

Gay Coffees is accepting nominations in search of a national breast cancer organization to be the recipient of proceeds from "Pink Ribbon Roast: Coffee for the Cause." Forty percent of the profits will be donated to the winner of the "May the Breast Charity Win" campaign.

An online vote will be available from February 1-28, and a winner will be announced in March 2003.

Once a charity is selected, Pink Ribbon Roast will be updated to reflect all of the cancer charities that would like to receive funds from GayCoffees. ▼

Info: www.gaycoffees.com

Screw Georgia Law

The Georgia Supreme Court unanimously struck down the state's fornication law, saying that the government may not "reach into the bedroom of a private residence and criminalize the private, noncommercial, consensual acts of two persons legally capable of consenting" to sexual activity.

The case, argued by the American Civil Liberties Union, added to the Court's 1998 *Powell* decision which overturned the state's sodomy statute. Georgia law sets the age at which a person can legally consent to sexual intercourse at sixteen. ▼

Info: www.aclu.org

Black AIDS Day: Feb. 7

More than 150 organizations in over 60 cities–including Oakland and Reno–will participate in the 3rd Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7th.

The event is a nationwide campaign that highlights the HIV/AIDS "State of Emergency" among African-Americans and to encourage them to get educated, get tested, and get involved to fight the disease. ▼

Info: www.blackaidsday.org

Do Ask, Do Tell

The Human Rights Watch recently called on Congress to repeal the military's ban on GLBT service members–a policy better known as "Don't ask, don't tell."

In their report, the HRW also called for: accountability for those who harass or condone anti-gay harassment; creation of safe, confidential venues for reporting anti-gay harassment; and repeal of the military's sodomy statutue.

According the to HRW, only the United States and Turkey are the two remaining NATO allies that continue to exclude gays from military service. ▼

Info: www.hrw.org

A Wolfe in Executive's Clothing

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund announced that it has tapped **Chuck Wolfe** as its new executive director. He will also serve as executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Foundation.

Wolfe has two decades of political, association, and business experience, including owning his own consulting firm and serving as chief operation officer of the American Legacy Foundation. ▼

Info: www.victoryfund.org

$F Pride Grant$ $140K

In spite of a dismal economic climate, the San Francisco Pride Committee was able to sustain the momentum of the past five years and set a new record. Grants to the community rose to a reported $139,792, up 22% on the previous year.

Other figures that increased included the numbers of organizations that that received funding (43 non-profits) and the proportion of grants to overall expenditures (12.74%, up from 11.83%). ▼

Info: www.sfpride.org

Memo for Middle East Military

A fact sheet for GLBT military personnel who may be impacted by the recent deployments to the Middle East was released by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The memo covers topics such as stop-loss orders, power of attorney, making a will and notifying domestic partners in case of an accident or death while a service member is deployed abroad. It also includes information on relaying message from domestic partners through the American Red Cross. ▼

Info: www.sldn.org

PFLAG $cholarship Announced

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays unveiled a new scholarship program last month at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

Named after a former NFL who came out last October, "The **Esera Tuaolo** Student-Athlete Scholarship" is part of the PFLAG National GLBT Scholarship Program for students who frequently face highly-charged and hostile environments in their schools.

In attendance at the ceremony were Sacramento **Congressman Robert T. Matsui** and former National Education Association President **Robert F. Chase**. ▼

Info: www.pflag.org

Get Your Political Learn On

Four-day, intensive work shops on campaigns and the electoral process will be presented in four different locations throughout 2003. As the workshop moves from city to city, it educates potential candidates and campaign managers on the in's and out's of message, strategy, voter contact, and more.

The Washington, DC-based **Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund** will host "The Victory Training Institute" in Washington, Oakland, Chicago, and Atlanta.

Notable alums of the Institute are California **Senator Sheila Kuehl**, Georgia Rep. **Karla Drenner**–the first openly lesbian (or gay) state legislator in the Deep South, and **Elizabeth Birch**, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. ▼

Info: www.victoryfoundation.org

Fund$ for Le$bian$

Eight educational scholar ships and grants are being given to "out" lesbian students who have been identified as having leadership potential. Funds are also being made available to twelve organizations that serve the lesbian community through both local and national programs.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation and the Lesbian Leadership Fund are providing the scholarships and grants to both undergraduate and graduate students from across the country. The criteria for the scholarships includes academic performance as well as demonstrated leadership in the lesbian community.

Winners included two Californians: **Lynn Albright** (graduate student in business administration) and **Paula Kirlin** (graduate student in international policy).

The application deadline for the 2003 scholarship cycle is July 1. ▼

Info: www.uncommonlegacy.org

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Choru$ Get$ $15K

GALA Choruses–the international association of GLBT and allied choruses–was given a $15,000 challenge grant from the Gill Foundation, a $260 million endowed organization committed to securing equal opportunity for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

In addition to producing choral festivals, educational conferences, and several publications, GALA also provides grants for commissioning of new choral works and serving as a resource center for choruses and individuals from around the world. ▼

Info: www.galachoruses.org

Luck of the Bi Irish

The 2nd European Bisexual Conference (EBC2) will be held in Dublin, Ireland, from July 4-6. The weekend ties-in with the Dublin Pride celebrations.

The conference–organized by Bi Irish, a Dublin-based group founded in 1986–is an opportunity to exchange information and experience in the areas of freedom of sexual preference and the position of bisexuality within societies across Europe.

Submissions for papers and presentations are welcome and are due by April 12. ▼

Info: www.eurobicon.org

A Diversity Celebration in Arkansas?

You bet...three of them a year in Eureka Springs. This year's Spring Diversity Weekend will be April 4-6. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains, the town prides itself for its open-mindedness, Victorian-era architecture, historic hotels, quaint bed-and-breakfasts, and winding streets filled with unusual boutiques and art galleries.

Scheduled for the weekend are drag shows, game show parodies, bands, and outdoor activities such as fly fishing and canoeing. ▼

Info: www.eurekasprings.org

Cho is the One Olivia Wants

Olivia–a pro-lesbian provider of travel services–announced that comedian **Margaret Cho** will be performing on an upcoming spring cruise.

The vacation cruise to the Bahamas will welcome over 450 women from April 30-May 7. This is the second time that Cho has performed on an Olivia cruise.

The Indigo Girls are among the other top-name talent that are also going to be performing on an Olivia cruise this spring. ▼

Info: www.olivia.com

Soulforce Grows Stronger

A national interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against GLBT people, Soulforce is expanding its mission with the licensing of three more local groups.

Austin, Chicago, and Kansas City join the ranks of Soulforce's network which now is active in nineteen localities, including Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennyslvania, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Washigton, DC.

All local groups are autonomous, however, supporters agree to abide by the basic "soul force" principles of non-violent resistance. ▼

Info: www.soulforce.org

'Freedom' First

Following the lead of its flagship paper, *the Orange County Register*, Freedom Communications, Inc. has become the first national newspaper chain to enact a policy prescribing all its papers to print same-sex union announcements.

Its new policy affects more than thirty newspapers throughout the country that print wedding announcements. ▼

Info: www.glaad.org

Barrel Cracks Old Policy

Cracker Barrel recently announced that it is adding sexual orientation to the list of characteristics covered by the company's non-discrimination policy.

The announcement ends a more-than-decade-long campaign on the part of gay rights advocates who have been pressuring the restaurant chain because of its policy of firing employees who fail to "demonstrate normal heterosexual values."

Cracker Barrel drew national attention in 1991 when it instituted its old policy that resulted in the firing of at least 11 workers.

The company's blatant discrimination–which was legal in the states where it occurred and remains legal under federal law–touched off a wave of protests and boycotts.

It later revoked the policy which had once been described as a "well-intentioned overreaction to the perceived values of our customers," but until now had not expressly protected gay employees from workplace discrimination. ▼

Info: www.all2gay.com

Key West & Midwest Add Rights

Key West became the first city in Florida to enact legislation protecting the human rights of transgender and intersexed people, and Springfield, Illinois, passed a similar ordinance covering both sexual orientation and gender identity, said the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC).

The towns are now the 55th and 56th jurisdictions in the United States to enact transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination laws. ▼

Info: www.ntac.org

Are NY Gays Spouses?

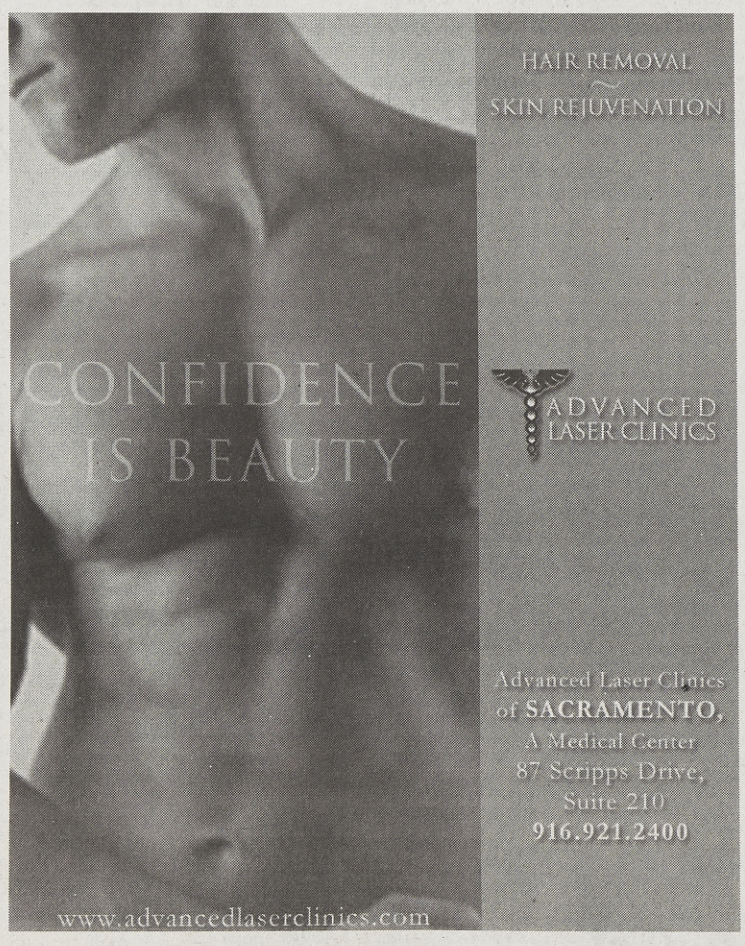
A gay New York man is fighting for the right to sue a Greenwich Village hospital that is accused of being accountable for his partner's death, said a release from Lambda Legal.

St. Vincent's Hopsital is asking a state court to block **John Langan** from suing for the wrongful death and medical malpractice of his partner, **Neal Conrad Spicehandler**. The hospital is arguing that because the men were a gay couple, their relationship cannot be legally recognized, despite their 2000 civil union in Vermont.

Lambda's attorneys who are handling the case are arguing that New York allows spouses and other specified relatives to sue for wrongful death, and no where does the law require that a spouse have a marriage certificate.

Last February, Spicehandler was struck by a car driven by a New Jersey man who was on a days-long hit-and-run spree. He died during a second operation on a broken leg. ▼

Info: www.lambdalegal.org



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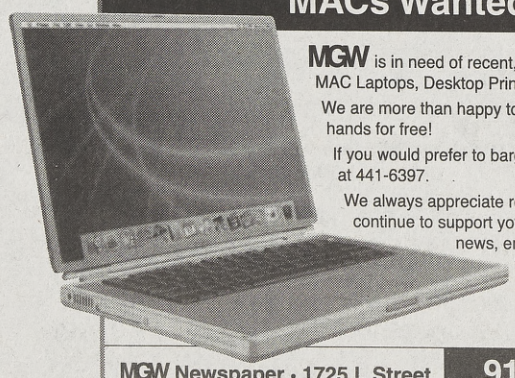

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Local

Two More Transgender Jail Lawsuits
One Rape Reported

By Derek Rudnak
MGW Staff

Two transgender women–**Jackie Tates** and and **Luisa Espinoza**, both of Sacramento–have filed suit in excess of $10,000 each against several local agencies in regards to allegations that they were either raped, assaulted, and/or abused while being held in the Sacramento County Main Jail (651 I St).

These charges are brought only a month after another area transgender woman–**Kelly McAllister**–filed suit for similar allegations (see *MGW* #445/446, pg. 9, "Jail Rape Victim Sues").

According to legal documents filed by attorneys **Dean Johannson** and **Dani Williams**, there are a number of similarities with Tates and Espinoza's claims, including:

• Both are self-identified and outwardly appearing transgender women.

• Expressions of distinctly anti-transgender hatred and prejudice caused them suffer to an extremely hostile environment.

• Although both had sizeable breasts and were undergoing hormonal treatments, they were denied issuance of bras to prevent the breasts from becoming misshapen.

• Both were required to walk bare-breasted through a gauntlet of male inmates and guards with only a towel wrapped around their waists during "laundry call." This subjected them to threats of sexual attacks, cat-calls, and anti-gay and anti-transgender epithets.

• Jail personnel demeaned the women by perjoratively classifying and referring to them as "he/she."

• Unlike non-transgender inmates who are served food in their cells, the women's meals were periodically left in the middle of a hallway where they were made to pick food off of the floor "like an animal."

• Both have filed previous lawsuits citing lack of proper medical care…including Espinoza whom is diagnosed as HIV-positive.

Tates also reported that she was raped on or about No-vember 21, 2002, while in custody and pending trial. She claimed that the attacker was another inmate who was given access to her cell by the jail's personnel for this purpose.

She also had reportedly filed a several grievances concerning other sexually harrassing incidents, including one on December 26, 2002, which tells of her being subjected to indecent exposure and rape threats. ▼

Info: (916) 444-0546
(916) 443-8366

LLACE founding board member Gail Lang, historian Susan Stryker, and activist Jameson Green…one of the many resources available at the Lavender Library's new website.

Lavander Library
Learning Online

The Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange of Sacramento (LLACE) announced that they have recently expanded its online resources.

LLACE has added all of its holdings of books, periodicals, sound recordings and video recordings to the its website.

To access the resource, visit their website and click the "Check Our Online Catalog" link. Instructions for searching the catalog are given on that webpage.

LLACE credits their dedicated volunteer librarians and computer wizards for the successful completion of the website.

In order to continuing providing these types of services to the community, LLACE requests that people consider becoming a Pride Preserver to support the organization's growth and development. One possible method is to contribute through the United Way–just be sure to contributions to LLACE. ▼

Info: www.lavenderlibrary.org

Dating Games for Women

Calling all single lesbians and lesbian couples! Rainbow Womyn is sponsoring two fun games at Club 21 (1119 21 St.) Saturday, February 15, from 7-9 pm.

Single women are invited to play the *Dating Game*. Just like the TV version from 1965, contestants will be given the chance to ask or answer questions in order to win a date.

And for couples, there's the *Newlywed Game*…it will emulate the 1966 TV version where contestants ask or answer questions in order to match what their partners say.

Organizers request that contestants register by February 11th. ▼

Info: womyn@lanset.com

Satirist Roszak to Sign Book

Author **Theodore Roszak** will be visiting for an appearance and book signing of his latest book *The Devil and Daniel Silverman* (Leapfrog Press) at 7 pm, Friday, February 7th at The Open Book (910 21st St.)

Roszak's satirical book is described as a contemporary political comedy about an outraged liberal who gets trapped by a winter storm in an evangelical fundamentalist Bible college. Forcing America's most free-thinking and most conservative forces to live with each other under one snow-covered roof, Roszak's text has been called "a deliciously hilarious microcosm of the culture wars rocking American society today."

John Nichols, author of *The Milagro Beanfield War* said, "This book is my favorite mortal sin of the year–right up there with the best and most outrageous works of **Philip Roth** and **Thomas Berger**."

Roszak is a Berkeley resident and a professor of history at California State University, Hayward. The author of eighteen books, including the internationally praised *The Making of a Counter Culture*, he has twice been nominated for the National Book Award. His articles have appeared *in The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Harper's*. ▼

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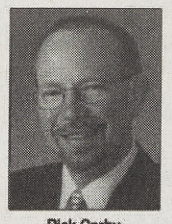

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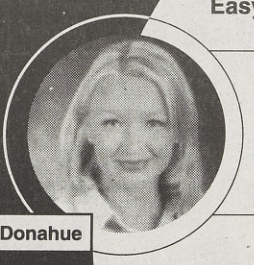

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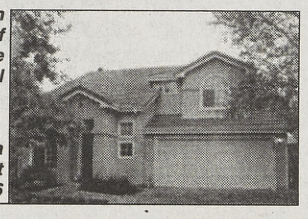

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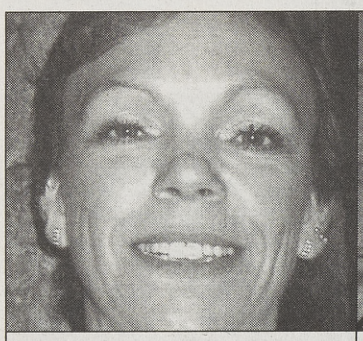
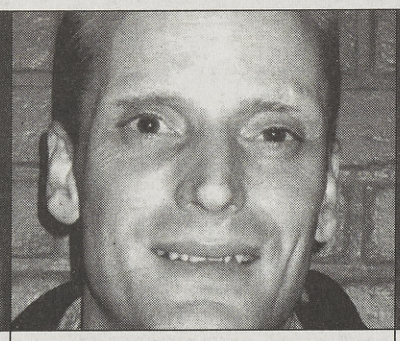
What Would You Like to See in Future Issues of MGW?



Laura Peck

Granite Bay
Test & Repair Technician

Sacramento needs better coverage of women's political issues. I would like to see more reporting at women's clubs in downtown Sacramento.



Joseph Hawkard

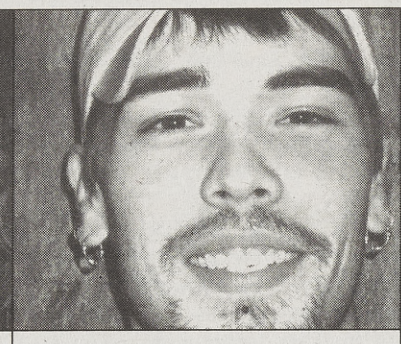
Midtown
Waiter

MGW needs to cover more stories regarding the homeless and what can be done about their living situation. Homelessness affects both the gay and straight populations of Sacramento.

Christy Berger

Sacramento
Government Employee

I would like to see more female music and artists reviews in *MGW*. I would like coverage of dates and times of women's bands coming to Sacramento.



Paul Harmon

Sacramento
Retail Management

MGW needs to cover more local news rather than national news. I would rather know what's going on here in Sacramento than elsewhere.

Cherie Greasby

Sacramento
Supply Management

MGW needs all-around political pace and what issues we stand behind. How liberal or conservative is our community?

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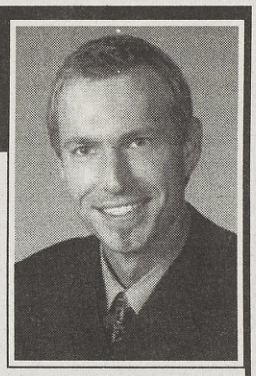

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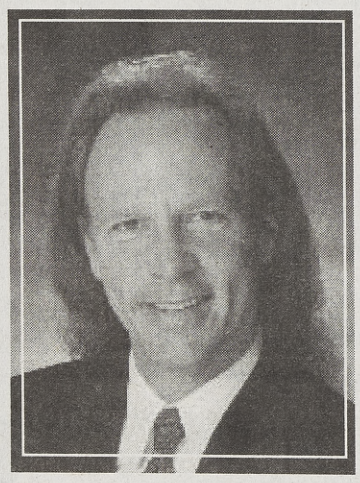
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Local

Rockers to Groove SACWYN

The Middle Aged Rockers will perform at the SACWYN Valentine Dance on February 8th.

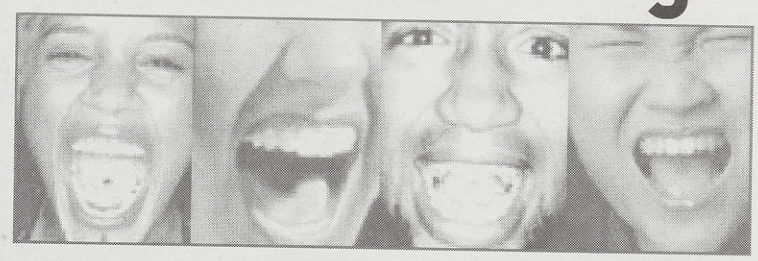
For the last twenty years or so, **Gail Smith** has been rockin' in Sacramento and Guerneville, and she's gonna be rockin' some more with her latest outfit, **The Middle Aged Rockers**, at the **SACWYN Valentine's Dance** on February 8th (see *Calendar* for details).

Smith, formerly of **The Fabulous Dyketones**, described the band's sound as a mix of 50's and 60's Motown rhythm & blues. Still, she promises to do a few encores from her solo act where she was known for her **Patsy Cline** interpretations.

Rockers' guitarist **Bonnie Brown** and bassist Smith have worked together in bands since the 80's, including stints in **Angel Fox** and **Prima Donna.**

Smith said that they are delighted to be working with "The Honorary Lesbians": keyboardist **Mike Bush**, guitarist **B.J. Santucci**, and drummer **Russ Mason**. ▼

Day of Silence Planning



Area Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) leaders who are planning on participating in the **Day of Silence** (April 9) are invited a meeting on February 8 at the Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange (LLACE, 1414 21 St.).

In addition to coordinating activities between GSA's, meetings will also be an opportunity to work together plan and brainstorm.

Organizers said that it will be a great way to generate real world ideas about gathering support on campus, preparing for and overcoming potential obstacles, communicating with administrators, and coming up with alternatives for the day's observance. ▼

Info: 916-733-2135
www.dayofsilence.org

Help the Hospice

Two events are scheduled this month that will benefit the **California Hospice Foundation.**

On February 2nd from 12-3 pm at the Hospice Thrift Shop (3257 Folsom Blvd.), *A Doll & Bear Affaire* will offer the public an opportunity to make generous donations towards collectible dolls, bears, and toys. Over 100 items will be available.

And on February 15th, the Hospice Thrift Shop will be hosting *The Immaculate Conception Fashion Show* with the Altar Society's member models. **Dale Black** will serve as master of ceremonies, **Mel Parker** will be the model escort, and **Thea Wilson** will be the model coordinator.

Volunteers are needed for both events: 8-10 are needed to assist on the 8th with keeping an eye on the dolls, and assistance with clothing changes, staging, setup, and transportation are needed on the 15th. ▼

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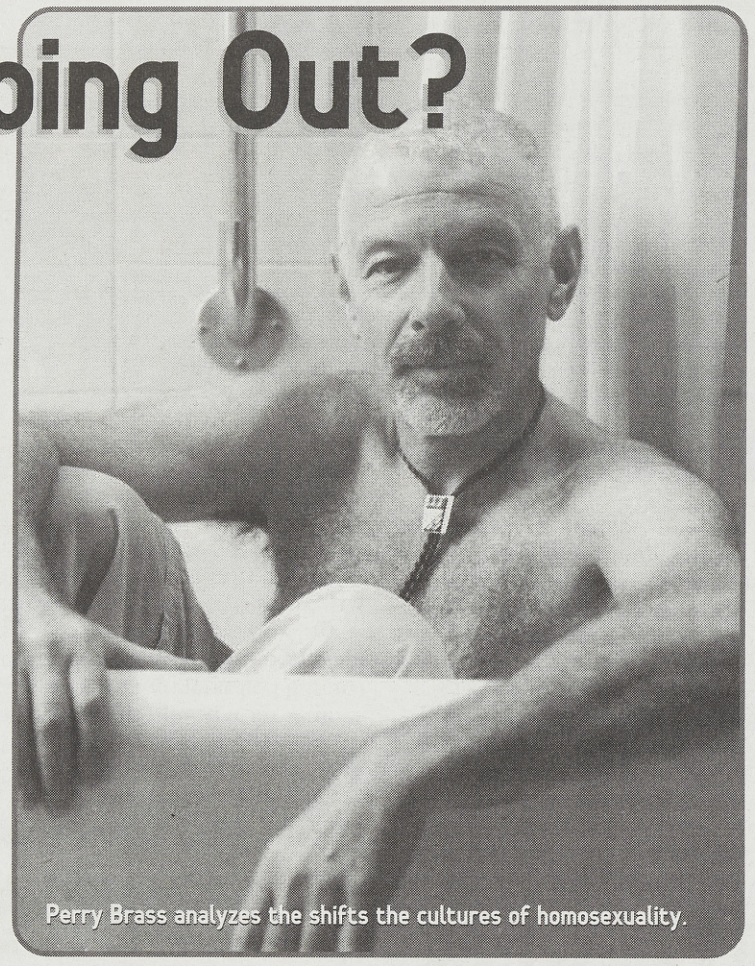
By Derek Rudnak
MGW Staff


Perry Brass analyzes the shifts the cultures of homosexuality.

Novelist and poet **Perry Brass** believes that gay and lesbian culture as we know it is on the way out... and he does not mean as in *OUT* magazine.

"Every day we see evidence of radical changes within our community. Gay bookstores are folding, gay papers and magazines are having a harder time surviving," Brass said. "Groups like gay choruses and theaters are trying to hold on. Gay culture is having a harder time connecting with the young, even though the young are coming out in droves."

In an essay appearing in *the Lambda Book Report*, Brass' "The New Gay and Lesbian Culture Meets the New Family" puts this trend into the focus of the changing family in America...and further suggests the idea that homosexuality in the very near future will be viewed simply as another part of human groupings, very much as stepfamilies are today.

The "New Family," according to Brass, may be two men or two women who own a house and are now ready to share it with a child produced through a myriad number of options. It can be more than two men or two women living together; a man and woman whose relationship may or may not be heterosexual, living with a third partner of either gender; or perhaps a person of transgendered history who has literally given birth to him or herself.

It can also refer to a group of men or women, or men and women, who associate through a series of individual approaches to sexuality. It might even be a "standard" straight family that has close physical and emotional ties to men and women who are outside of conventional heterosexuality.

But what emerges as most important, Brass said, is that "the old family has changed so much that it now includes us."

Strangely enough, millions of young people now have either come from families like these or–at the very least–know them. For these youngsters, the old, often inward-looking gay culture of books, plays, movies, and TV means little.

"The old world of gay and lesbian culture was, for the most part, shaped by hiding, by secret cues, and labeling," said Brass. "Today, it's out of touch with a new generation of queer kids who are very much in touch with the 'New Family' because millions have come from new families already.

"They are the children of divorce, stepfamilies, gay dads and lesbian moms, of transgendered parents, and an array of sexual information and cues that is both dazzling and bewildering. These young people find the old gay and lesbian culture quaint at best, irrelevant at worst."

What can gay artists, writers, and entrepreneurs do to make gay culture relevant to today's young?

Brass said "we need to see gay and lesbian culture as important to restoring the needs of the human psyche, to be a nutrient for psychic hungers. Many of us are involved with this now, although we still do not understand the scope this hunger.

"We do not understand that these needs for connection to the larger bliss, for human closeness, trust, and a sense of history are at a famine level. The events on 9/11 have shown us that our own survival is at stake."

To survive and have validity in the future, gay and lesbian culture must "open itself up beyond its usual fears of openness," said Brass.

He added, "It will have to see that we are now assuming a very usual position in society, that of another part of human reproduction and human grouping. This will be a hard thing for an older generation to do because as an embattled minority it has made a real investment in its own specialness, even as bitter as that specialness has often seemed."

Brass attributed a lot of infighting and burnout in gay groups to being wrapped up in that specialness.

"More than fifty years ago, Harry Hay said that because we were so often rejected by our parents, we leap to reject each other," said Brass, "I hate that."

"It has made a lot of gay people fundamentalists in their own way," he said. "We have an orthodoxy about what is politically correct, what is gay and what is not. We need to open ourselves up a lot more, and produce a culture from that need for openness and love, not closedness and hiding.

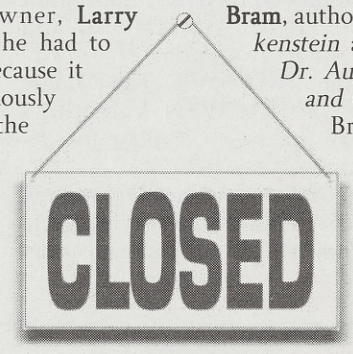
In closing, Brass suggested that "in the coming gay and lesbian culture, we will be the parents of the next generation. We need to see this and from this form the next generation of gay and lesbian books, art, and institutions." ▼

Info: www.lambdalit.org

Wilde No Longer

By Derek Rudnak
MGW Staff

The oldest GLBT bookstore in the country–and one of two left in New York City–the Oscar Wilde Bookstore closed its doors last month after being in operation since 1967.



The store's owner, **Larry Lingle**, said that he had to close the store because it had been continuously losing money for the past six years.

It has been suggested that the store's financial difficulties were something of a mixed blessing in that they reflected a mainstreaming of gay issues...issues that are possibly as easy to access in national chain retailers.

The bookshop sat beneath the quiet shade of trees at 15 Christopher Street in New York's West Village. Small and tucked away, it easily slipped away from sight, and it has been known to elude a searching customer from time to time. Others have said that it's been a part of the neighborhood so long it simply blends in.

"Just as some people go for walks in the woods to relax, I like to visit bookstores, said **Chistopher Bram**, author of *Father of Frankenstein* and *The Notorious Dr. August: His Real Life and Crimes.*

Bram complimented the store's broad selection of books, some of which were collectibles, including titles by **Tennessee Williams**, **Gertrude Stein**, and **Truman Capote** , many of them signed, plus framed autographs by such luminaries as **Walt Whitman**, **Somerset Maugham**, **Gracie Allen** and Oscar Wilde himself.

"A celebration of literature as well as a very fine store, this was one of the best bookstores anywhere, gay or straight," said Bram. ▼

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Right in the Nuts

The word from leading health organizations and government agencies seem to indicate that it is OK to go nuts...walnuts, that is. The proof: establishment of new dietary guidelines for eating a diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids, of which walnuts supposedly have one of the highest concentrations.

Walnuts are unique because the healthy fats they contain are primary *poly*unsaturated, the source of omega-3s. Mounting scientific evidence indicates that omega-3s lower blood cholesterol levels and reduce heart arrhythmias, thereby drastically reducing heart disease risk. Other research suggests omega-3s may protect against certain cancers and help to ease the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.

Just once ounce of walnuts–a handful–is all it takes to meet the September 2002 dietary recommendation of 1.6 and 1.1 grams per day of alpha-linolenic acid (an omega-3 fatty acid) for men and respectively, according to the Food Nutrition Board of the National Academies' Institute of Medicine.

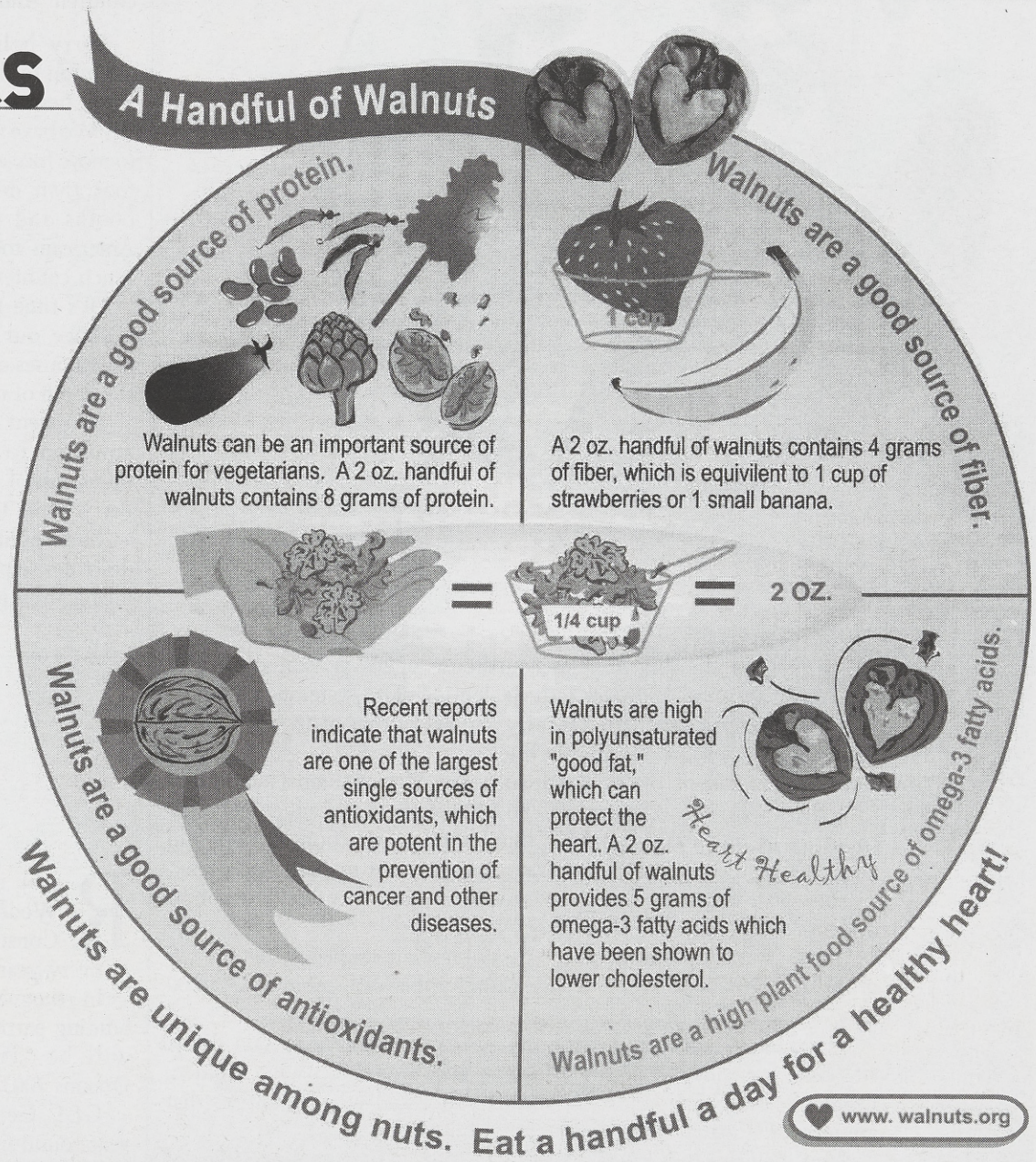
Ther American Heart Association followed up in November 2002 with its own statement urging consumers to eat more fish, walnuts, flaxseed, and certain vegetables in order to increase omega-3 intake.

A growing body of research shows that eating walnuts on a regular basis packs a powerful health punch. In addition to studying the effects of walnuts on the U.S. diet, researchers have conducted clinical trials testing the effects on the Mediterranean and Asian-style diets as well. The results have been equally promising in all instances. Consuming walnuts reduces serum cholesterol levels significantly.

California's walnut industry sets the world quality standard and accounts for 99 percent of the commercial U.S. supply and two-thirds of the world trade. Once of the oldest foods, walnuts are today recognized for their flavor, versatility, and health benefits.

While the omega-3s seem to be at the heart of their health benefits, walnuts contain a host of other important vitamins, minerals, and phytonutrients, including antioxidants. ▼

Info: www.walnuts.org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Walnuts are a good source of protein.
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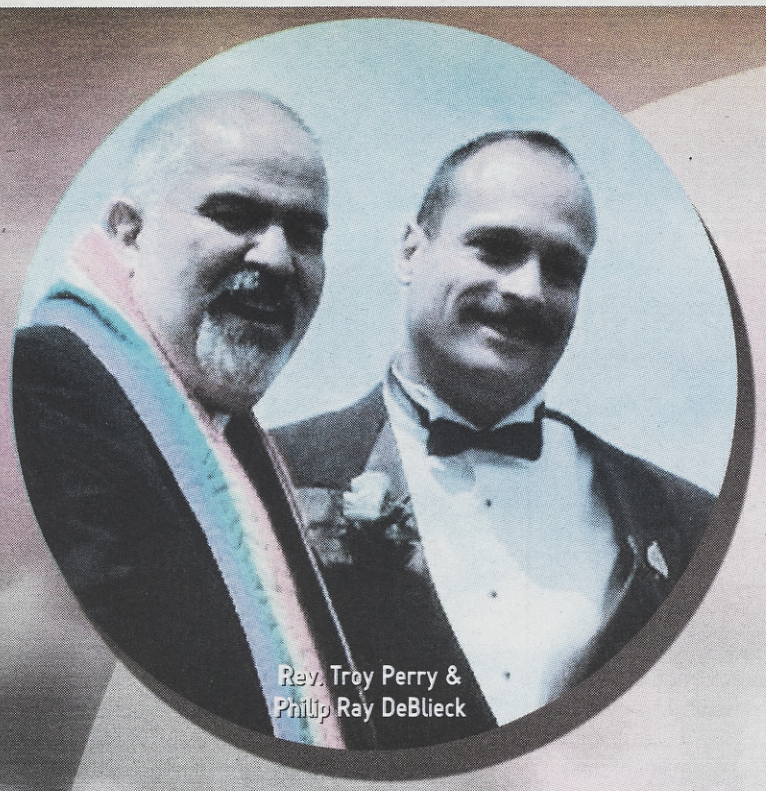


Rev. Troy Perry & Philip Ray DeBlieck

Can-do About 'We Do'

When the Los Angeles courthouse opens at 9am on Friday morning, February 14th –Valentine's Day–veteran civil rights activist **Rev. Troy D. Perry** and his partner of 18 years, **Philip Ray DeBlieck**, will be standing in line.

Perry, founder of the predominantly-gay Metropolitan Community Churches–which boasts more than 46,000 members and adherents in 22 countries–is encouraging GLBT couples to go to court houses and municipal offices on Valentine's Day, and apply for marriage licenses.

They plan to apply for a license to marry, and they hope to not go it alone.

"I'm encouraging thousands of gay and lesbian couples across the US to do the same," said Perry, whose churches perform more than 6,000 same-sex weddings each year.

"It's time to move the debate on gay marriage forward," said Perry. "It's time for equality. It's time for the US to catch up with Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, France and other countries that are providing marriage rights for gay couples."

Perry believes that the key to this mission is the simple concept of "conquer by numbers."

"Imagine the power that will be unleashed if thousands or tens of thousands of gay and lesbian couples apply for marriage licenses on the same day," said Perry.

Never shy when it comes to GLBT rights, Perry plans to invite the media to cover the event. "I want to be sure our state legislators hear our voices."

Why now?

"I've seen so many important advances for gay and lesbian people in my 34 years of activism. But before my life is over, I want to share in the same right afforded to most Americans; a basic right that is still denied to gay snd lesbians. Before my life is over, I want to legally marry my wonderful partner Phillip."

And what if his application for a marriage license is turned down?

Perry is undaunted. "Well, realistically, the odds are that it will be turned down. And if so, I'll tell them, 'thank you' and 'we'll be back next Valentine's Day to apply again.'

"Then I'll step outside and talk to the press about equality and fairness for God's gay and lesbian children. And I will be back next year."

Perry believes the action can increase attention to the gay civil rights movement and he is not hesitant to help lead the way.

"We have a great legacy of public actions that helped to move forward the cause of justice. A century ago, women took their demands for equality under the law to voting booths and polling places. Half a century ago, African-Americans took their demands for legal equality to segregated lunch counters and places of oppression.

"It's time for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons to advance our own quest for equality by taking our demands to courthouses and municipal offices with actions that demonstrate both the depth of our love and the unfairness of the restrictive marriage laws."

In recent years, GLBT groups have used Valentine's Day to call attention to the lack of equality in marriage laws. By encouraging thousands of gay and lesbian couples to actually apply for marriage licenses, Perry hopes to increase the focus on marriage rights.

Metropolitan Community Churches have prepared a free resource kit that describes steps GLBT couples can take to advance the marriage issue and to call media attention to Valentine's Day events in local cities and towns. ▼

Info: info@MCCchurch.org

Going to the Chapel *Vegas Style*

Right in time for Valentine's Day, the 1st Annual Las Vegas Gay Wedding Expo 2003 was announced. Hosted by G&L Ceremony Consultants, the expo will be March 23rd at the Alexis Park Resort & Spa.

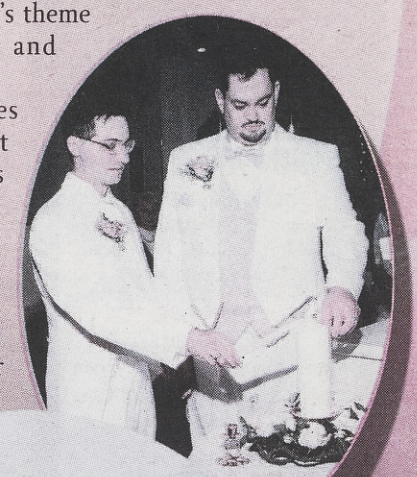
Every year, more and more gay and lesbian couples are saying "I do".

In recognition of the thousands of ceremonies each that binding partners in holy matrimony, the expo's theme will be "The Celebration of Life, Love and Dreams 2003."

G&L Ceremony Consultants specializes year-round in to helping couples plan the event of their dreams "Let's face it: In a city like Las Vegas, this is where dreams are made of!" said organizers.

A portion of the proceeds from the event with be donated to to the Lambda Legal Defense Fund. Over 30 vendors will be on-hand to answer questions and offer prizes and other items and services. ▼

Info: www.idowithpride.org

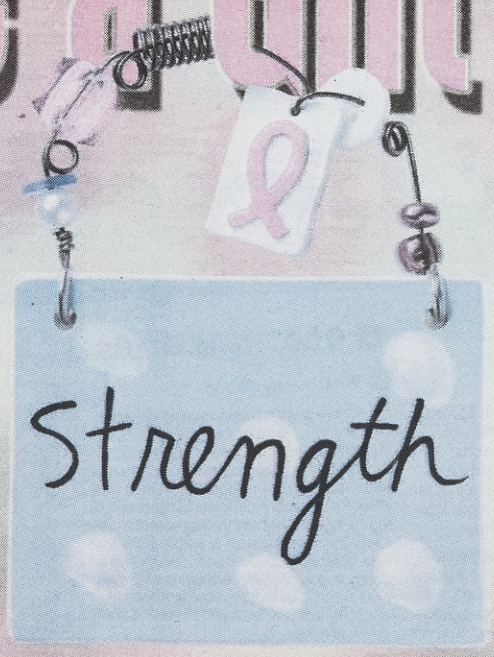


Give a Gift of Love & Life

Valentine's Day is no longer just for lovers...now everyone from friends, sisters, mothers, daughters, aunts and colleagues are jumping in on the action and exchanging gifts on **February 14th!**

With these folks in mind, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has come up with a selection of fun gift items for people to exchange–including a pin, a mug, a journal, a t-shirt and much more! ▼

www.komen.org



Fund$ for Films Announced

The recipients of the 2002 Horizons/Frameline Completion Fund have been announced.

This year, the fund received over 80 submissions and awarded a reported $15,000 in completion funds to five projects. After a preliminary screening, an independent jury selected the following final five recipients:

- *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon* (director **Joan E. Biren**), recounting the poignant and inspiring story of the founders of the modern lesbian civil rights movements, and partners in love and political struggle for nearly 50 years.
- *Hrein Og Being (Take Me As I Am)* (directors **Hrafnhildur Gunnarsdóttir** and **Thorvaldur Kristinsson**), is a coming out film from Iceland. The film portrays nine young gay people from the age of 18-28 who testify to their experiences of emerging from the Icelandic closet, a truly provincial testimony.
- *Butch Mystique* (director **Debra A. Wilson**), a documentary that explores the lives of butch/stud women of African American descent. Although these women have varying backgrounds, they share experiences growing up realizing that they were not only attracted to other women but that they also had characteristics normally attributed to being "male."
- *Brother to Brother* (director **Rodney Evans**), a feature-length narrative drama that looks back on the Harlem Renaissance from the perspective of an elderly black gay writer who meets a gay teenager in a New York City homeless shelter.
- *Rise Above: The Tribe 8 Documentary* (director **Tracy Flannigan**), is a private look into the world of dyke punk rock band Tribe 8, and the inspiring way in which they overcame the obstacles in their lives through humor, cathartic performance, and self-expression.

"Although queer-themed films occasionally enjoy crossover success, most do not get distribution or even screenings at mainstream film festivals," said **Jennifer Morris**, Frameline's Festival Co-Director.

"This fund aims to tap into the motivation and energy that fuels a queer artist to make their vision a reality and help them with the crucial last steps that could make the difference between being seen by a larger audience and not being seen at all."

"This is a great time for us to get this grant since we are making our final decisions on what archival footage and period tunes we can afford to purchase," said Biren. "The number and quality of images and music from the past will make a huge difference in how effectively we can tell our story."

Established over ten years ago to assist GLBT media artists with the final stages of production, more than 50 films and videos have been completed with assistance from the fund, including **Harry Dodge** & **Silas Howard**'s *By Hook Or By Crook*, **Cheryl Dunye**'s *Watermelon Woman*, **Barbara Hammer**'s *Nitrate Kisses*, *Rose Troche*'s **Go Fish**, **Mark Christopher**'s *Alkali, Iowa*, *David Weissman* and *Bill Weber*'s **The Cockettes**, *Yvonne Welbon*'s *Living With Pride: Ruth C. Ellis @ 100* and *The Brandon Teena Story* by **Susan Muska** and **Greta Olafsdottir**. ▼

Info: www.coreypr.com

Bee Features 'Boy' Director

■ Q&A: Rand Martin

More than 'fluff'

Elly Award-winning director Rand Martin is staging the 1975 off-Broadway musical spoof "Boy Meets Boy" for the Lambda Players at the 24th St. Theatre. Martin has directed numerous plays and musicals in the area, most recently "Love, Valour and Compassion!" and "The Ritz" for Lambda.

"Boy Meets Boy" is an ambitious production for the small company, using 11 actors along with an onstage pianist. It continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Jan. 25 at the 24th St. Theatre, 2791 24th. Tickets are $12 general. For more information: (916) 484-4742.

Q: *Why are you doing this show?*

A: It's a spoof of 1930s movie musicals, but the twist is that the two romantic leads are both male. Other than that, it might as well be every Ruby Keeler and Dick Powell musical from the '30s. All the archetypal characters are in the play and the songs are of the era. It's a piece of fluff which is fun and entertaining, but in the context of that, it sends a powerful message.

Q: *What is that, exactly?*

A: That the love or relationship between two people of the same sex should be unremarkable. The script deals with the fact that they're both male leads as if there is nothing untoward happening on stage. Which was actually kind of remarkable in the mid-'70s, when gay and lesbian theater was just beginning. The most notable example at the time was "The Boys in the Band," which was a pretty negative characterization of the gay community. So to have this lighthearted, all-is-right-with-the-world show was really a great advance.

Q: *What is it about musicals that appeals to you?*

A: Musicals are an art form that got under my skin when I was in elementary school. It's always been something that appealed to me organically. Intellectually, I would say (a musical) is a great blend of so many various art forms. It's not just a play, it not just dancing, it's not just singing. It's everything. And if you put it together right, it's magic that you don't get in other forms of theater.

– Marcus Crowder

Reach him at mcrowder@sacbee.com

Rand Martin has appeared in numerous plays in Sacramento, including a production of "Oscar and Bosie."

The January 16th *Sacramento Bee* "Q&A" column featured director Rand Martin who is currently staging the Lambda Players' 1975 off-Broadway musical spoof *Boy Meets Boy (See MGW #447, pg. 9, "Play Time for a Boy")*.

Get Ready for the 'Penis'

The international comedy hit *Puppetry of the Penis* makes its Sacramento debut at the Crest Theatre on Tuesday, February 11, running through the 14th.

Make no mistake, there are no sock puppets in this show! *Puppetry of the Penis* begins where *The Full Monty* ends: with two naked penis puppeteers (**Lincoln Davies** and **Dan Lewry**) on stage presenting the ancient Australian art of genital origami.

Requiring astonishing stamina, an unbelievable stretch factor and an amazing level of testicular fortitude, more than 40 heroic and hilarious installations are presented, including crowd pleasers, tourist attractions, and food products like "The Pelican," "The Windsurfer," "The Eiffel Tower," and their signature creation, "The Hamburger." ▼

Info: www.tickets.com
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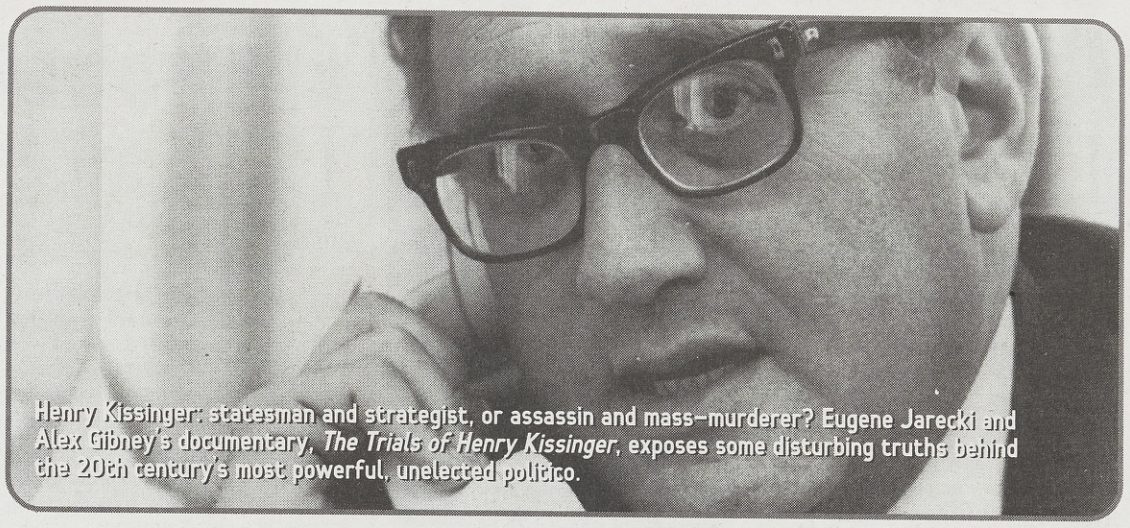
Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer

By Stefan Gruenwedel
MGW Staff


Henry Kissinger: statesman and strategist, or assassin and mass-murderer? Eugene Jarecki and Alex Gibney's documentary, *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*, exposes some disturbing truths behind the 20th century's most powerful, unelected politico.

There's an odd coincidence associated with September 11. On that day in 1973, Chile experienced a bloody military coup; and on that day in 2001 some survivors of that event planned to file a lawsuit against **Henry Kissinger** for his role in the illegal overthrow of their democratically elected government.

THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER
Written by **Alex Gibney**
Directed by **Eugene Jarecki**
(Not Rated, 80 min.)

Of course, other events of that morning overshadowed this news. Now **Eugene Jarecki** and **Alex Gibney**'s documentary, *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*, sheds renewed light on an idea that has gained momentum since early 2001 when **Christopher Hitchens** published his book of the same name.

Interestingly—and quite unexpectedly to the filmmakers, I'm sure—the issues they raise about the responsibilities of the movers and shakers in world affairs apply directly to today's presidential leadership.

Here is their challenge: Is it possible that Kissinger, a Nobel Laureate and the most famous diplomat of his generation, is also a war criminal? To some readers this question may as well be a factual statement. To others the possibility boggles the mind.

Provoked by Hitchens' accusatory book, Jarecki and Gibney admirably condense his thesis into 80 minutes by combining the obligatory commentaries by various famous and knowledgeable talking heads with **Peter Nashel**'s moody music and editor **Simon Barker**'s arresting visuals—including early photos and movies of Kissinger and his groupies, from presidents to chicks.

Both sides of the spirited debate share their strong opinions. To former secretary of state **Alexander Haig**, Hitchens is nothing but a "sewer pipe sucker," to author **Seymour Hersh**, "the dark side of Henry Kissinger is very, very dark."

According to yet another, Kissinger has a conspiratorial, manipulative character and he ingratiates himself with both sides. No kidding about that one: Before joining **Richard Nixon**'s administration, Kissinger had worked tirelessly behind the scenes for Nixon's archrival, **Nelson Rockefeller**.

However questionable his means to an end, Kissinger definitely succeeded in making himself known. Parodied on both *The Simpsons* and *Saturday Night Live*, he recognized early in his career that if you become a celebrity, you garner more power.

As the film makes clear, the flip side of celebrity is notoriety, of which Kissinger has plenty. *The Trials of Henry Kissinger* carefully reconstructs the events that preceeded the infamous "secret bombing" of Cambodia in 1969, indicating that he had direct knowledge of the entire affair.

Part of the problem with a documentary like this is the limitations imposed on its researchers. Many of the documents available to the filmmakers—and to author Hitchens who champions to this day for widespread acceptance of his theory—remain classified. Moreover, Kissinger's own papers on the matter are to be made public only after his death.

Yet what to make of the fact that Kissinger has yet to file a libel suit against anyone who advances Hitchens' ideology? Perhaps because doing so would open certain cans of worms that might bolster those claims against him.

Suffice it to say, Kissinger doesn't believe in kiss-and-tell.

As a result, all that the film can really show us are unclassified documents with portions still inked out. So while Kissinger's reputation rests on partial truths, they're the only truths we have to go on.

Nevertheless, those truths are chilling: Not only did Kissinger mastermind the coup of Chilean President **Salvador Allende** and undermine President **Lyndon Johnson**'s Vietnam peace talks—thereby prolonging the war by several years (which added half the names on the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington, DC, as Hitchens points out)—but he engineered the secret bombing of Cambodia and approved Indonesian President **Suharto**'s use of American-supplied arms to massacre 100,000 rebellious civilians in East Timor.

What makes *The Trials of Henry Kissinger* so relevant to today is Kissinger's public stand on the legitimacy of international criminal courts. He doesn't believe in them, naturally. Yet they do exist and their reach will, over time, inevitably touch those who abuse their political power and seek to hide under the cover of diplomatic immunity. After all, Chile's General **Augusto Pinochet**, the same man who overthrew Allende with Kissinger's alleged blessing, was arrested in 2001 while traveling in England.

According to the film, Pinochet's arrest terrified Kissinger because it seemed to foreshadow his own arrest on war crimes charges. Although they don't say it, the filmmakers leave you wondering whether such charges might come at a later date against our own fearless leaders who seem compelled to bring this country to war with Iraq.

The Trials of Henry Kissinger is now playing at the Crest Theatre. ▼

Info: firstrunfeatures.com

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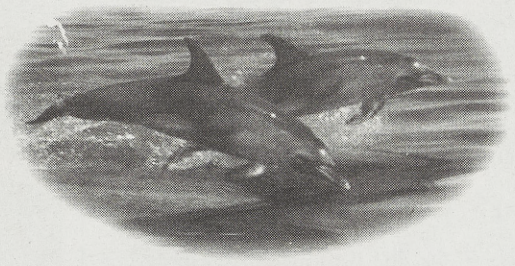

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ITL: Refuse to Hide

The gay and lesbian cultural newsmagazine *In the Life* presents "Out Front" for February 2003 on national public television at 11 pm on Sunday, February 16 (KVIE Channel 6).

"Out Front" focuses on gays and lesbians who refuse to hide, and instead struggle to create voices for themselves–and for the Gay Rights Movement.

Hosted by lesbian slam poet **Staceyann Chin**, star of *Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on Broadway*, *ITL* will feature segments including:

● **The Advocate:** As *The Advocate* rolls past its 35th anniversary, *ITL* profiles this voice of the gay and lesbian community. From its early days as a radical pamphlet in the late 60's to its current, glossier–and sometimes controversial–newsmagazine approach.

The Advocate has survived the times and substantial style changes, but not without concerns from some critics. Interviews include **Judy Wieder**, Senior VP and Corporate Editorial Director, LPI Media; **Brendan Lemon**, Editor in Chief, *OUT*; **Paris Barclay**, columnist, *The Advocate*; author/**editor Mark Thompson**, and professor/author **Martin Duberman**.

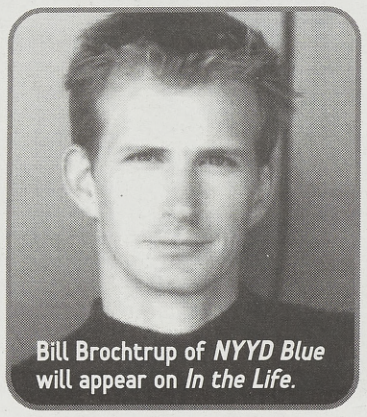
● **Real to Reel:** ***Brother Outsider:*** **Bayard Rustin** (1912-1987) was the lead organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. As one of the most influential African-American leader during the Civil Rights Movement, Rustin often advised **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, but ironically he was edged out of the fight for social justice because his homosexuality was considered a political liability.

"In protest, there must never be any compromise; in politics, there is always compromise," Rustin later explained. In *Real to Reel*, *ITL* presents an intimate look into the new PBS *documentary Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*. Interviews include Co-Producer/Directors **Nancy Kates, Bennett Singer**, and Executive Producer **Sam Pollard**.

● **Mooshka:** When **Kevin Cata**'s AIDS medications changed, instead of discarding his unused drugs, he called on his creative childhood passions.

So Cata, a.k.a. Mooshka, crafted the pills into artwork that fused his gay identity and his Pueblo Indian roots–art which has saved his own life and continues to open the eyes of others about the disease. Interviews include **Christine Pelkin**, R.N., San Francisco General Hospital, and family members from San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico, **Herman Agoya** and **Stella Clay**.

● **NYPD Pink:** Actor **Bill Brochtrup**, who plays P.A.A. John Irving, the openly gay police administrative aide on ABC's *NYPD Blue*, takes *ITL* onto the production's set.


Bill Brochtrup of *NYYD Blue* will appear on *In the Life*.

During *ITL*'s visit, Brochtrup, who also refuses to hide his own gay identity, reflects on his status as ambassador to straight America, changing the hearts of the tough police squad–and the show's mainstream audience.

● **D.I.Y.:** Young post-"riot grrrls" go underground to create a popular new scene with their feminist politics and D.I.Y. (do it yourself) ethic, seizing control of their music and their careers. And many of these "grrrls" are lesbian.

"I don't think I would be a performer if I wasn't performing my queerness," says Le Tigre band member **JD Samson**.

Interviews include **Erin Siodmak**, Founder, Ladyfest East; **Laura Forbes**, Organizer, Ladyfest East; **Kaia Wilson**, Co-Founder, Mr. Lady Records; **Donna Dresch**, Founder, Chainsaw Records; **Doris Muramatsu** and **Tammy Greenstein**, Co-Founders, Clever Shark Records; **Wynne Greenwood**, Tracy & the Plastics; **Carrie Brownstein**, Sleater-Kinney; **Allison Martlew**, The Butchies; **JD Sampson**, Le Tigre; and musicians **Sarah Dougher** and **Gina Young**.

● **Out Takes:** *ITL*'s regular commentator, three-time Tony Award winner, and Broadway's *Hairspray* star **Harvey Fierstein** tells us why **Homer Simpson** can't sleep over at his house.

● **Out & About:** *ITL*'s coverage of national and local events includes a celebration of SAGE members at The Supper Club in Manhattan; the Live Out Loud panel of "Leaders, Heroes, and Quiet Champions" inspiring gay and lesbian youth; and the Black Like Us launch party hosted by co-**editors Devon Carbado** and **Donald Weise**.

In Freeport, Grand Bahama, *ITL* reports on Diving for Life's 11th Annual Gay & Lesbian SCUBA Jamboree fundraising efforts for health charities. And *ITL* takes a look at transgender performer/activist *Imani Henry*'s new show, *B4T, Before Testosterone*, as well as the unrequited love in the new film, *Food of Love*, based on the *The Page Turner* by gay novelist **David Leavitt.** ▼

Info: www.inthelifetv.org

'Enterprise' Explores HIV/AIDS

The hit Paramount Network Television drama series for UPN, *Enterprise*, joins the Viacom company-wide HIV/AIDS initiative in the fight against intolerance, apathy and inaction, with an episode entitled "Stigma" scheduled to air on February 5 (check local listings).

In the episode, viewers learn that Sub Commander T'Pol (**Jolene Blalock**) has been diagnosed with a disease, most commonly associated with a minority Vulcan population.

She has kept this a secret from the Enterprise crew while under the care of the ship's physician Dr. Phlox (**John Billingsley**).

When it becomes necessary that she receive supple mental treatment, Dr. Phlox must seek the advice of Vulcan physicians without revealing T'Pol's secret, as their prejudices would prompt them to remove her from service if they found out.

In this futuristic metaphor, T'Pol's disease mirrors the current HIV/AIDS epidemic on many levels. The script allows viewers to identify with T'Pol as a woman keeping a secret because of intolerance and prejudice set forth by her own Vulcan race.

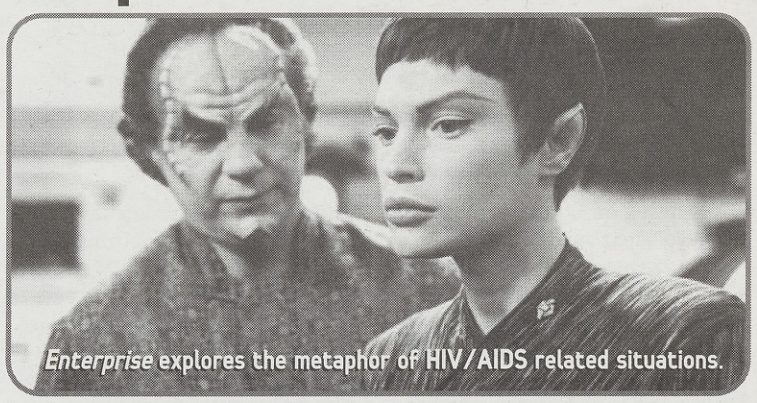

Enterprise explores the metaphor of HIV/AIDS related situations.

Photo Courtesy Paramount Pictures.

The disease has been identified with a minority population, which Vulcan physicians are intolerant of and has become stigmatized because of the way it is contracted.

Her struggles reflect the stigmas, bigotry and intolerance that exist today against the gay population.

"The episode depicts the Vulcan physicians as unwilling to supply research, medicine or preventative efforts in order to stop the spread of this disease simply because they don't condone the behavior of this Vulcan subset," said one of the show's writers.

"Many in today's society believe that it is this kind of intolerance and ignorance that allows the HIV/AIDS epidemic to spread."

The episode illustrates that the disease has no boundaries and does not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation and religion.

This is illustrated through T'Pol, who has lived with the disease for a number of years, yet is not a member of the minority sector of Vulcans.

Viacom's worldwide initiative to foster HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, which kicked off this month, also includes public service announcements, radio programming, outdoor, print and on-line content. ▼

Info: (818) 985-0245

When Drugs May be the Answer

By Randy Jamison
MGW Staff

Pet owners confronted with shredded sofa cushions, torn drapes or chewed-up furniture may be desperately seeking medication as a quick fix. Pet owners should consult their veterinarian to decide whether drug therapy is right for their pet or if the problem can be solved with behavior modification and therapy.

Some indications for drug therapy include anxiety–particularly separation anxiety–in dogs and fighting between cats in a household that may stem from anxiety or aggression.

Dogs suffering from separation anxiety become very distressed when separated from their owner and may become destructive, chewing or ripping up things in the house.

A pet suffering from anxiety should be taken to a veterinarian for a physical exam to determine why the pet is acting undesirably. Medical problems must first be ruled out and a physical exam is needed to detect any possible complications. If the owner's veterinarian is not comfortable handling behavioral problems, then they may need to be referred to a veterinarian more familiar with behavioral problems in pets.

Before drug therapy, behavior modification techniques can be utilized to see if the pet will react positively and change some of the negative behaviors associated with anxiety disorders. A couple of basic behavior modification techniques are *habituation* and *counter-conditioning*.

An example of habituation is a dog that barks at a cardboard box new to his environment, but then over time he becomes accustomed to the box and no longer barks at it.

Counter-conditioning is teaching the pet a behavior that is incompatible with the undesirable behavior. For example, teaching a dog to sit when introduced to new people is incompatible with jumping up on them, therefore eliminating the undesirable behavior of jumping on people.

By the time owners bring their pet in to see a veterinarian, the problem has often been going on for months, maybe even years. These owners are often fed-up, and wanting a quick fix to the problem, they'll request medication. What these owners need to understand is that the pet needs to be retrained in order to teach them a different response to anxiety.

An advantage of behavior-modifying drugs is they may help the pet more quickly by reducing anxiety to a level where behavior modification is possible. The owner can then apply some of the behavior modification techniques and be better able to take the pet off medication over time.

Some disadvantages include the potential for abuse of the drugs by owners and side effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetite, seizures and heart problems.

That's why the initial physical exam is so important. Before administering any medications, we need to know the pets' risk factors and consider possible complications.

There is also a lot of guilt associated with a pet that suffers from separation anxiety or other anxiety problems. Owners may feel guilty because they don't have as much time as they would like to spend with the pet or because they have to leave the pet alone or outdoors.

Owners may assume their pet is being spiteful in response to being left alone. They need to understand the pet is anxious or fearful and not acting out intentionally.

Often, pet owners don't understand the behavior can be changed. Behavior problems are the number one reason for surrendering a pet to a shelter. Animals suffering from anxiety problems are often taken to shelters or euthanized because another solution was never found.

Veterinarians who understand animal behavior can often provide the owner insight as to the cause of the behavior and recommend a treatment plan that includes behavior modification. ▼

MGW Pet Gallery

Sleepin' Buds

These two Fiddletown dawgs are into just takin' it easy! **Adam** is a ten-year-old Yellow Labrador, and **Mack** is a thirteen-year-old Cocker Spaniel.

Adam, who is bonded to **Jared Mabie**, loves to eat and go for truck rides. Mack is bonded to **Jon Lopez** and is very loving and likes to cuddle. ▼

Kibbles Kibbutz

Kosher Pets

Your pet should be so lucky! Cats and dogs can now nosh on items from Kosher Pets that are well, um, Kosher. And no, this does not mean feeding them gelfelte fish or borscht!

Floridians **Marc Michaels** and **Martine Lancombe** are schlepping their products–which include freeze-dried beef patties and poultry dinners –over the Internet. All are Kosher for Passover.

The idea came to them when their Dalmation, Lola, took a liking to their homemade Kosher chicken stew and coicidentally stopped having rashes that weren't responding to costly medications.

Michaels and Lacombe aren't Jewish, nor does Jewish tradition does not require that pets follow Kosher dietary laws. Oy! Woof! Meow! ▼

Info: www.kosherpets.com

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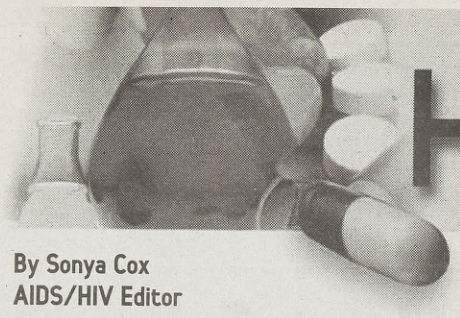

HIV Newsline

On the HIV Front

By Sonya Cox
AIDS/HIV Editor

Better HIV reporting raises state numbers...

After years of declines, the number of new AIDS cases reported in **California** in 2002 increased six percent to 4437 cases according to the state **Office of AIDS**, with some regional numbers significantly higher (in **Los Angeles County**, for instance, cases went up 32 percent, to 1789).

But state and local health officials attribute the increase to better disease reporting by doctors and clinics, not a failure of HIV drug treatments or a recent resurgence in high-risk behavior. Even so, the state stands to receive additional money to provide services because the federal government bases its funding on each state's tally of AIDS cases, and will soon tie funding to HIV cases as well.

California began requiring medical providers to report HIV cases beginning last July 1st. Under the new system, laboratories must automatically notify local health departments of every test that indicates HIV or AIDS infection. Health workers then seek additional information, such as race and risk factors, from medical providers.

Because many of the newly reported AIDS cases in California were diagnosed years ago, but simply not officially reported, state and local officials do not expect to see an increased demand for medical treatment and support services.

However, health officials say there is still a failure of some doctors and clinics to provide the data required by law. If these problems are not resolved, officials say they will not be able to track HIV's spread, and next year, when the federal government begins linking its grants to the number of state HIV cases, California risks coming up short.

Officials believe the recent increase represents only a fraction of the unreported cases they believe exist. While most labs are reporting their results, some doctors are balking.

One Los Angeles physician who treats about 200 people with HIV said, "I'd like to help them, but I really don't have the time to do the paperwork that they're asking for, so I'm not doing it."

Officials in **Ventura County** have threatened to fine physicians who did not report their cases. Los Angeles County officials plan to make timely reporting a condition of grant funding.

State Office of AIDS Director **Michael Montgomery** said reluctant doctors need to realize that the state's ability to track HIV cases will be directly tied to federal funding for services.

Address risk factors when PIs mix with cigarettes, hypertension...

A recent study advises doctors to be aware that prescribing **Protease Inhibitors** to people who already have risk factors for cardiovascular disease–especially smoking, hypertension, a high concentration of lipids in the blood, or insulin resistance associated with diabetes–could further increase the possibility of myocardial infarction (the obstruction of one or more of the coronary arteries).

It suggests physicians intervene as much as possible to get the person to stop smoking, and that they diagnose and treat the other risk factors when prescribing PIs. A group of **observational HIV Out-patient Study** (HOPS) investigators have long been assessing 5,672 people with HIV, average age 42, for occurrences of myocardial infarction.

Since the 1996 introduction of protease inhibitors, 21 people in the group had a myocardial infarction. Nineteen of them were among the 3,247 taking protease inhibitors, while there were only two among the 2,425 who did not take PIs. The researchers also documented 15 instances of angina (severe pain in the region of the heart)–11 among the group who took protease inhibitors versus 4 among the group that did not.

Data showed no single protease inhibitor to be significantly more likely than the others to be associated with the incidence of myocardial infarction or angina. But the overall frequency of heart problems rose dramatically when people with these risk factors began to take PIs, and the incidence rose even further after PIs had been used for a few years, according to the report.

Overall, however, myocardial infarction is still infrequent, the study concludes, usually occurs in people with these risk factors for cardiovascular disease, and should not detract from the appropriate use of these drugs.

Student health survey may withhold sex questions...

Questions about drug use, weight problems, family issues, and suicide have been approved by the **Fairfax Board of Supervisors** for a student survey to be given in **Virginia** this April, but seven questions about sex may continue to be left out, for fear they will give teenagers ideas.

There may be a compromise, where questions are rephrased, or where only older students will get the questions about sex, such as, "How old were you when you first had sex?" "Did you drink alcohol beforehand?" The aim of the survey is to find out the degree to which students may be at risk so that education and treatment programs can be tailored accordingly.

A task force of health officials, school administrators, police, and parents design Fairfax's surveys. Its first one, in 2001, did not mention sex either.

A Fairfax school district official said, "The more information we have, the better our prevention and intervention can be."

But republican board supervisor **Stuart Mendelsohn** said, "The questions could lead a young person to think there's something wrong if they haven't done that kind of thing," and he worried the survey will "send the wrong message."

In nearby **Maryland**, the **Harford County Board of Education** is finally taking the more realistic stance. They're scheduled to vote at the end of February on proposed changes in the middle school sex education curriculum–to include material on sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy–that would bring the school system in line with most others in the state.

The school board last year talked with 22 of the state's other school jurisdictions and found that Harford County is the only county that did not include information about teen pregnancy and STDs–except for HIV and AIDS–in the middle school curriculum. And even the HIV/AIDS curriculum has not been updated since 1983, said a committee member.

Meanwhile, in **Texas**, students in Lubbock are protesting abstinence-only sex education, taught since 1995 when **Gov. George W. Bush** signed a bill requiring Texas schools to follow the abstinence curriculum.

Since then, statewide teen pregnancy and STD rates have stayed high, with the rates in Lubbock double the state's already-high rate. Yet abstinence-only proponents maintain that teaching youth about birth control constitutes inviting them to have sex.

"Abstinence is the 100 percent effective way of not getting an STD or pregnant," said the **Lubbock Health Department**, and we "strongly encourage abstinence."

A spokesperson at the state's **Medical Institute for Sexual Health** said, "Parents under-estimate the knowledge kids have and the pressure they are under. They would be horrified if they knew what their kids know about drugs and sex."

The teens said that with limited teaching from school and parents, they learn from experience.

HIV transmitted through bone transplant...

The chief of the bone disease department at a **Taiwan** hospital warned that hospitals should consider keeping donated bones in bone banks for at least half a year before using them for transplants.

The issue arose after a man who received a hip replacement became Taiwan's first case of HIV infection through bone transplantation.

"Currently there is no way to detect HIV in donated bones, so hospitals must evaluate the risk before carrying out the bone transplants," they said.

In this situation, the bone could have been donated during the window period immediately after infection, during which HIV cannot be detected.

AIDS prevention campaigns target Black Americans...

A coalition of black print, broadcast and Internet media recently announced a massive campaign to prevent the growing spread of AIDS among African Americans.

Valued at more than $5.7 million in airtime and other costs, the multi-year campaign includes articles in the February issues of nine magazines (with references on the magazine cover), an eight-part series to run during **Black History Month** in 200 newspapers, programs on **Black Entertainment Television**, a website, and radio public service announcements.

Called the **Drumbeat Project**, the campaign is "designed for 100 percent penetration of the African-American market," said one participant.

More than half of new AIDS cases in the United States are in the black community; 64 percent of new cases among women involve blacks; and AIDS is the leading cause of death for black men ages 25-44.

At the same time, drug manufacturer **GlaxoSmithKline** will start working with **Magic Johnson**, one of America's best-known athletes with HIV, to spread awareness among urban blacks about treatment methods and the company's products (which include NRTI's Combivir, AZT/Retrovir, Epivir/3TC, Trizivir, and Ziagen/Abacavir, as well asprotease inhibitor Agenerase).

Johnson's image will be splashed on billboards, subway posters, and full-page ads in newspapers and magazines. The ads include photos of a robust-looking Johnson and feature messages such as, "Staying healthy is about a few basic things: A positive attitude, partnering with my doctor, taking my medicine every day."

The campaign also includes a speaking tour by Johnson in cities with the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection among blacks, including **New York**, **Los Angeles**, **San Francisco**, **Miami**, **Washington**, **Chicago**, **Philadelphia**, **Houston**, **Atlanta** and **Newark, N.J.**

Magic Johnson was diagnosed with HIV 11 years ago. To maintain his health, he takes a combination of Glaxo and non-Glaxo drugs. Despite the public campaign, some AIDS activist groups are still unhappy that the drug companies are not offering low-cost incentives along with the publicity campaign.

"Telling people to get tested and seek treatment, and not providing the resources is corporate irresponsibility," says the president of the **AIDS Healthcare Foundation**.

But the **Gay Men's Health Crisis** says the campaign is an important first step in reaching blacks and explaining that an HIV diagnosis is not a death sentence. ▼

In Loving Memory of Friends Lost in February

February 1985:
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February 1986:
DeWayne Dale Linam

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Daryl Speicher

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Connie Lee

February 1993:
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Steve Colip — John Trapp
Jack Greiner — Jack Voyles
Michael Rawlins — Stephen Warren
Michael Schiveley

February 1994:
David Dobler — Don Hester
Ralph F. Geddes — Chuck Scaggs
Randy Shilts
Sonia Esteves–Velazquez

February 1995:
David Arnold — Joel Ferreira
Brian Bell — Dick Gallagher
Randal C. Bitterman — Reuel Johnson
Billie Rae Butulia — David Pope
Michael Chapman — David Trimble

February 1996:
Dennis B. — E. D. Granberg
Mark Britton — William M.
Terry Childers — Chuck Smith

February 1997:
Mark A. Britton — Victor Martin
Clifford Wasson

February 1998:
Ronnie Diones ("Rachelle")

February 1999:
Ermine Duccini — J. B. Hefferlin
Terry Hurst

February 2001:
Chris Anderson — Gary Lombardo

February 2002:
John Mack

As long as
you are remembered,
you live!

To add the names of loved ones to MGW's remembrance column, call 737–0309.

For info about creating a NAMES Project AIDS memorial panel, call 484–5646.

Q Health:

This Valentine's Day, Can You Find True love?

By Dr. Jeffrey Chernin
MGW Staff

Valentine's Day can be a difficult time.

If you are single, you feel like Cinderella while every one else is at the ball. For couples, there's pressure to have a romantic evening or give the perfect gift. How can you enjoy the day if you're one of the people who struggle with it?

Before discussing how to make the day more enjoyable, I'd like to offer some ideas about *love*.

Mostly, we are taught that love is all about romance. From everywhere in society, we are led to believe that someday we will meet the right person, fall in love, and live happily ever after.

This idea perpetuates loneliness and a sense of failure, and we seem to ignore the fact that there are many kinds of love. Just as we as GLBT individuals want the general culture to accept same-gender love, we need to expand the definition of love to include its various forms of expression.

There are many ways to feel and express love. Cynics wonder aloud if love is possible at all. Not only is it possible, it is becoming imperative to our survival!

We should expand the definition of love to make love more real–to take it away from illusory "romance" and bring it into everyday reality.

> ***"We should expand the definition of love to make love more real–to take it away from illusory "romance" and bring it into everyday reality."***

Sometimes, expressing love takes a word, a gesture, or a token of affection. One of the greatest forms of love is giving time and attention to another human being. Giving love–and not attaching strings or expecting anything in return–can make the world feel like a safer place.

Volunteering in the community is one way to express love. It is a symbol of unity we feel toward one another, and it's a way to connect with people on a basic, human level. There is also the feeling that love in action can be a response to hate.

Another way to expand the definition of love is to include forgiveness. Often, people think that if you forgive someone else, you are letting them off the hook. Rather, it's important to forgive others because ultimately, forgiveness is for you and you only. Not only can it take give you peace of mind, but it can release you from the prison of bitterness and hatred.

Like most other parts of our personalities, love is not a thing–it is a process. As we grow, we are capable of more love. And we can learn to express it in ways that others receive it. Like happiness, love must come from the inside.

For this Valentine's Day, I ask you to expand the meaning of love not only to make it more meaningful, but as a way to make the day less burdensome.

This February 14th, remember that passionate love fades and that true love is the love you have to build love for yourself, your partner, and your community. ▼

Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is a psychotherapist in Los Angeles. He can be reached at JNChernin@aol.com

Farewell Morris Kight

Pioneering gay rights activist **Morris Kight** died in his sleep in Los Angeles on January 19th at the age of 83.

Kight was part of the 1969 launch of the Gay Liberation Front, and two years later in 1971, he co-founded the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, the first and largest such center in the world.

He was also a co-creator of LA's Gay Pride March–the Christopher Street West Parade–in 1970, the creator of the Morris Kight Collection, an archive of thousands of GLBT civil rights artifacts, and a creator of the Stonewall Democratic Club whose endorsement is highly prized in California politics.

Governor Gray Davis said, "I have been proud to call Morris Kight my friend for nearly 30 years. He was an unwavering and tireless advocate for gays and lesbians, and more recently, for those affected by AIDS and HIV."

Though most strongly identified with the GLBT rights movement, he was allied with many other progressive causes, and his political insight was frequently sought by those in power and seeking public service. Last year after serving 20 years on the LA County Human Relations Commission, he retired from public service but continued to speak out for people in need.

Donations in Kight's memory are being accepted by the nonprofit ONE Institute and Archives (909 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90007). which will house and maintain the Morris Kight Collection.

Friends are invited to stop and leave flowers at West Hollywood's Matthew Shepard Memorial Triangle (Santa Monica Blvd. & Crescent Heights). A magnolia tree with a plaque honoring Kight has been planted at the triangle. ▼

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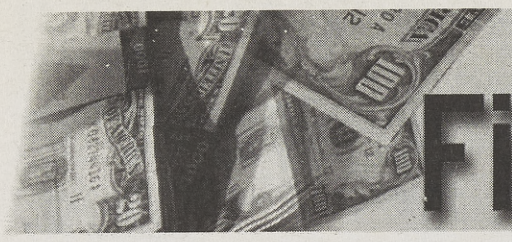


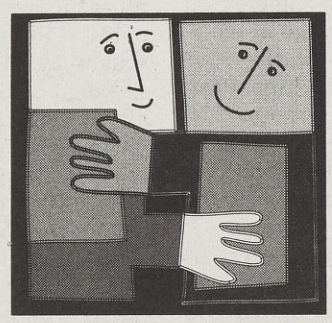
Finance

MANAGING YOUR MONEY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM • MANAGING YOUR MONEY IN THE NE

MAXIMIZING Partner Benefits

California domestic partners have, for the first time, special income tax benefits available to them, according to **Jan Zobel**, a tax practitioner (enrolled agent) with offices in Oakland and San Francisco.

Zobel said that a lack of publicity about the benefits, however, may prevent couples from taking advantage of the new laws.



As part of an attempt to equalize tax treatment between married couples and domestic partners, new deductions are available for medical insurance and healthcare costs paid for domestic partners.

One of the new deductions affects whose employers provide health insurance benefits that cover domestic partners. An unmarried employee will find the cost of these benefits tacked onto his or her paycheck. A married employee, on the other hand, is not taxed on the health insurance premiums an employer pays for a spouse.

This inequality is no longer true, at least as far as the state of California is concerned, said Zobel. Unmarried employees who are half of a registered domestic partnership can deduct on their 2002 California tax returns the additional amount of income added to their paychecks because of employer-provided healthcare benefits for their domestic partner.

"In addition, taxpayers who pay out-of-pocket for their domestic partner's health insurance or medical costs may now deduct those expenses, along with their own, on their California tax returns." said Zobel.

The new law also provides a deduction for health care costs paid on behalf of a domestic partner's dependents.

Zobel clarified that these tax benefits apply only to domestic partners who have registered with the State of California.

She also noted that the benefits are available only on California tax returns and adjustments will need to be made between the California and Federal returns since IRS law doesn't allow the deductions.

While the state tax return instruction book briefly mentions these 2002 changes to California tax law, Zobel is concerned that those who prepare their own returns, even if using one of the popular computer tax programs, may not be informed of the deductions available to them.

She encourages domestic partners to make sure that they take advantage of this first-ever tax benefit.

Zobel has been preparing taxes for nearly 25 years and works extensively with the LGBT community. She also the author of Minding Her Own Business: the Self-Employed Woman's Guide to Taxes and Recordkeeping *(Adams Media Press).* ▼

Info: JanZtax@aol.com

Home Swap Club Launched

The Gay Financial Network (www.GFN.com) has teamed up with Digsville LLC to provide its members with the opportunity to participate in a GLBT-international home exchange network: the *GFN Home Swap Channel powered by the Digsville Network.*

Through the platform, members are provided unique value-added benefits towards their choices for international and domestic vacation and travel.

The *GFN Home Swap Channel*, officially launched on October 2002, further proliferates the worldwide growth trend of home exchange and vacation home rentals.

GFN's website enables members of the GLBT community to better enjoy the many benefits of vacation travel with free accommodations using Digsville's exclusive listings of home exchanges.

Company releases claim that The *GFN Home Swap Channel* is the first, and only secure and private online home exchange, hospitality and vacation home rental platform exclusively for the GLBT community.

"Everyone loves to vacation," said **Helen Bergstein**, founder and president of Digsville, "however, in good times or bad, business professionals often postpone planning due to workload, schedule conflicts, or cost."

"Today more than ever we all need to get away and recharge. Whether you fly to Tuscany or ferry to Fire Island, *the GFN Home Swap Channel* provides the best value for a savvy consumer's vacation time and budget." ▼

Info: www.gfn.digsville.com

BIG BIZ to Help Gay Biz

Provista Software International, Inc., announced that is participating in an offer by IBM to help GLBT business owners and decision makers identify performance gaps that hinder their competitiveness.

The IBM-sponsored "Free Financial Benchmark Analysis Campaign" is being managed by the consulting firm VP Marketing, Inc.

IBM is targeting the GLBT constituency with the goal of helping this segment better understand how their business processes impact their bottom line. Here's how it works:

• First, a comparison is done of a company's competitiveness by reviewing benchmarks for seven key financial measurements in their industry or sub-industry.

• Next, the assessment looks for those gaps in processes that are currently constraining the business.

• Then the"real value" of closing these financial performance gaps is demonstrated.

• Lastly, solutions are outlined that will close the performance gaps and result in the bottom-line benefits.

It is the solution deliverables where Provista will prove valuable to those companies who have taken advantage of the offer.

"Provista is extremely excited about this campaign and our involvement. By being both pro-GLBT and an IBM Business Partner, I believe we are in a great position to help the GLBT constituency become more successful in the various industries in which they compete, said **Joanne Culver**, president of Provista. ▼

Info: www.gfn.com

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SEXUAL COMPULSIVES ANONYMOUS

A 12 step support group for those who are struggling with sexual compulsion and addiction. Meets Sundays 5-6:30pm at Lambda Center. sca-recovery.org tfn

SUICIDE PREVENTION LINE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Ethical & reliable people only wanted for crisis phone line. Training provided. Jonathan 368-3118 tfn

VOLUNTEERS FOR BREAST CANCER PROJECT

Breaking Barriers Cancer Support Project and the Breast Cancer Treatment Fund are looking for volunteers to provide support, transportation, and food delivery. Marsha 447-2497 tfn

ARCHIVES

HISTORY AT THE LIBRARIES

Past issues of MGW Newspaper are available on microfilm at the main Sacramento Library, CSUS Library, and hardcopies at Lavender Library, Archives, And Cultural Exchange. tfn

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WEB INTERNS WANTED

College internships at MGW Newspaper is a great way to boost your skills. Practice graphics, reporting, photography, computers, ad sales, public relations, financial, and art on assignments all over California. Units are given in 195/199 or 295/299. Contact your advisor in your department and call MGW, 441-6397 tfn

SALES PEOPLE WANTED

MGW is accepting applications for Account Executives. Applicants must enjoy talking to business owners, be neat in appearance, and have transportation. Newspaper and telemarketing experience helpful. Great Commissions! If you would like a career that is constantly changing call 441-6397 tfn

POLICE CADET/OFFICER

The mission of the Sacramento Police Department is to work in partnership with the community to protect life, property, help solve neighborhood problems and enhance the quality of life in our city. The candidate should be interested in progressive policing styles, community, neighborhood, and problem oriented policing. Police Cadet is a classification in which candidates for Police Officer train in a P.O.S.T. certified police academy conducted by the Sacramento Police Department. Upon successful completion of the training and graduation from the academy, a Police Cadet is eligible for probationary appointment to the sworn civil service classification of Police Officer. Police Cadet salary: $1,953 Police Officer salary: $2,649-$4,389, 264-5726 tfn

CREATIVE SPIRITS WANTED

MGW is accepting applications for graphic artists. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of QuarkXpress, Pagemaker, Photoshop, and Illustrator on Macintosh. Previous newspaper or magazine design experience a plus, especially if you have designed display ads. Fax resume, cover letter, and samples to 441-6422 or call 441-6397

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WANT PRIVACY?

Home in country 5 miles west of Dixon, 2/2, large kitchen, bath, living and dining rooms. Pet considered. $1500 (707) 678-2627 tfn

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YET ANOTHER CURTIS/LAND PARK COTTAGE

Small 1BR cottage in Curtis Park. No pets. $550 rent, $550 deposit. Call Russ, 761-6602 tfn

PERSONALS

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Experienced leather top, 49, 6', 180, HIV-, would like to meet a younger, slender bottom. Jackson/Valley Springs area. 206-786-5166 or jayman@caltel.com. x1/15

PETS

ADOPT-A-PET

Faux Paw Kennels, all breed rescue, Claire 988-6225; Mary 387-8811 tfn

CALLING ALL WORKING PETS

Pets: Do you go to work with your mom or dad? Mom or Dad: MGW Newspaper would like to feature you and your pet. Send us a photo with caption or call 441-6397 and we will take the photo! tfn

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Dachshunds need homes, all types. Pat 925-2640 tfn

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WANTED

HTML GURUS WANTED

MGW wants you to help maintain our web site. Responsibilities include adding current issues to the site, updating its design, and some editing. Applicants should be familiar with HTML, CGI/Perl scripts, Java, FTP, and multiple web browsers. Mac preferred. 441-6397 or info@mgwnews.com tfn

DO YOU LISTEN TO BOOKS ON TAPE?

Want to be part of a group that trades audio tapes? Call Linda at MGW, 441-6397, afternoons best tfn

'HONEY DO' HELPERS WANTED

Do you know any LGBT masonry people, roofers, plumbers, electricians, carpet companies, painters, termite, handy people? We want to keep the money in the community. MGW Referral Service. 441-6397 tfn

TRANSCRIBING MACHINE WANTED!

MGW is looking for a transcribing machine for micro and full size cassettes. Call 441-6397 tfn

YOUTH CRISIS LINE TRAINING

Young people in crisis need a supportive and caring person to listen. You can become that person by volunteering for the Youth Crisis Line. No experience needed.Bilingual individuals encouraged to inquire. 340-0505 tfn

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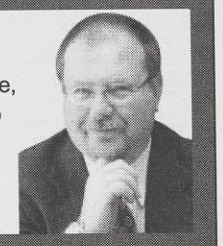

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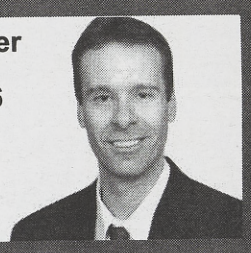

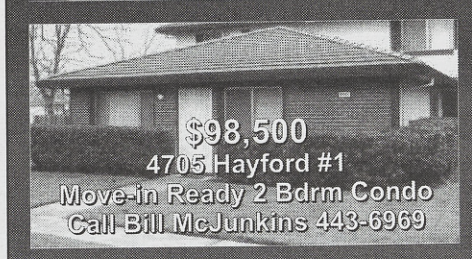
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